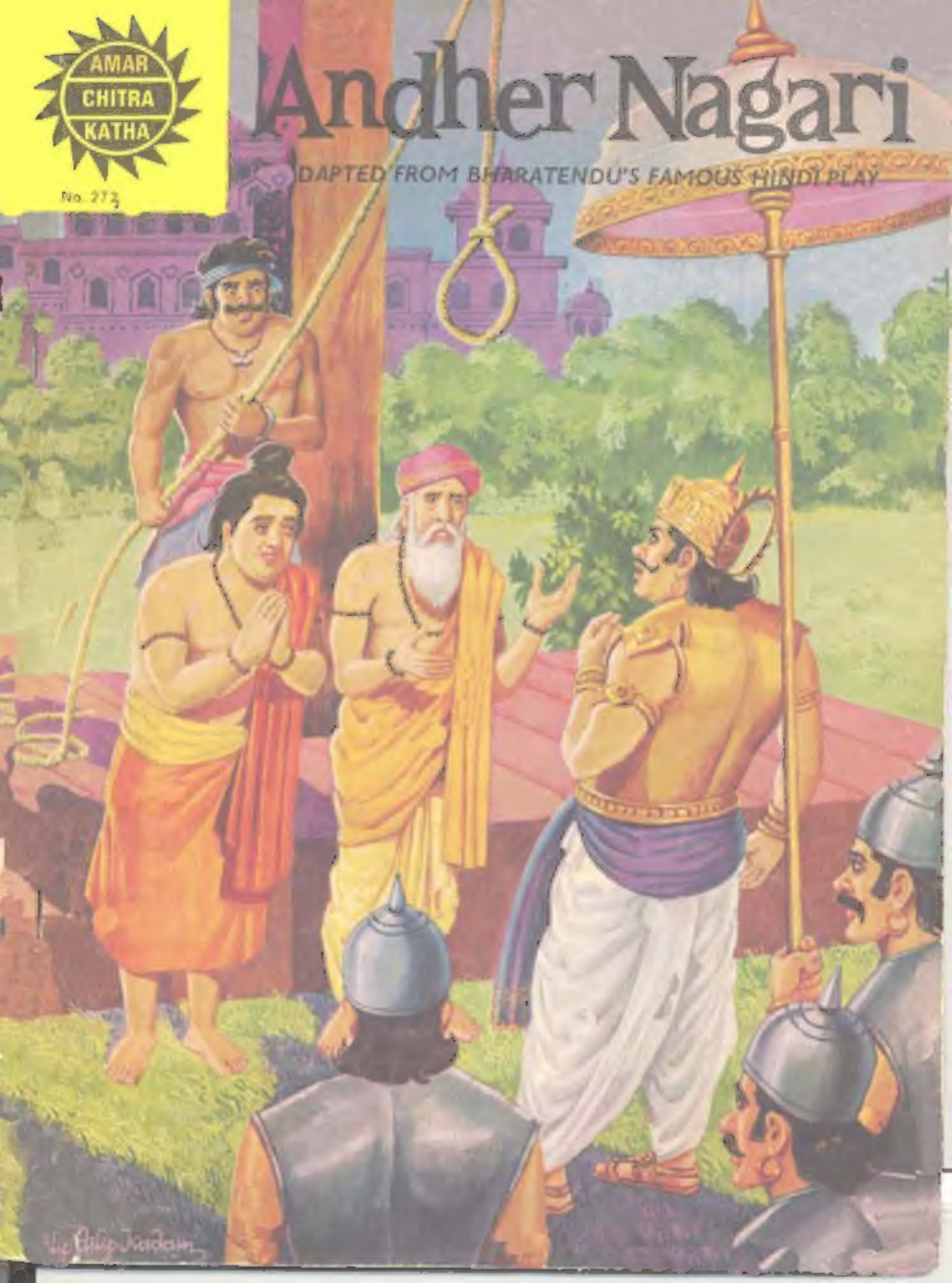




No. 272

Andher Nagari

ADAPTED FROM BHARATENDU'S FAMOUS HINDI PLAY



By Bipin Chandra

ANDHER NAGARI

Bharatendu Harishchandra (1850-1885 A.D.) is known as the father of modern Hindi prose. This great author wrote 175 works in his short life-span of 35 years. These consist of poems, plays, stories and articles. Though the subject of his poetry was mainly love and Bhakti, he wrote a number of plays and poems that reflect the prevalent social conditions. He edited and published a Hindi magazine in which he advocated social reforms. His play, "Andher Nagari Chaupat Raja," is a delightful blend of didacticism and entertainment.

The first story of this Amar Chitra Katha is based on Bharatendu's play, the text of which was made available to us by Smt. Shantidevi Motichandra. The play is based on a popular folktale of the time. The second story is another well-known folktale of North India.

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Amar Chitra Katha
QUIZ
CONTEST**

Beginning with

The Churning of the Ocean

(Title No. 273—issue dated November 1, 1982)

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Editor : Anant Pai

Andher Nagari

Script : Meera Ugra

Hazaar Maarya

Script : Sudha Nileshwar &

Luis M. Fernandes

**Artworks:
Arvind Mandrekar**

When you buy a
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make sure
it is



**OUR NEXT TITLE:
The Churning of the Ocean**

ANDHER NAGARI



ONCE UPON A TIME A WANDERING SADHU AND HIS DISCIPLES CAME TO A TOWN TO WHICH THEY HAD NEVER BEEN BEFORE.



WE ARE SURE TO GET A MEAL HERE. NARAYANDAS, YOU GO TO THE HOUSES IN THAT DIRECTION.



AND GOVARDHANDAS, YOU TO THOSE IN THIS DIRECTION.



SOMETIME LATER —

OH, NO!
NOT MONEY
AGAIN!



EVERYONE HAS DROPPED ONLY COINS INTO MY BOWL. I'LL HAVE TO BUY SOME FOOD.

AS HE WALKED THROUGH THE TOWN —

TAKA* SER+!
TAKA SER!

WHAT COULD
THEY BE SELLING
AT A TAKA A SER? I'D
BETTER HURRY BEFORE
THEY SELL OUT.



SYRUPY, SUGARY,
DELICIOUS EATS! BUY
MY SWEETS! TAKA
SER! TAKA SER!

VEGETABLES! FRESH
VEGETABLES! TAKA
SER!





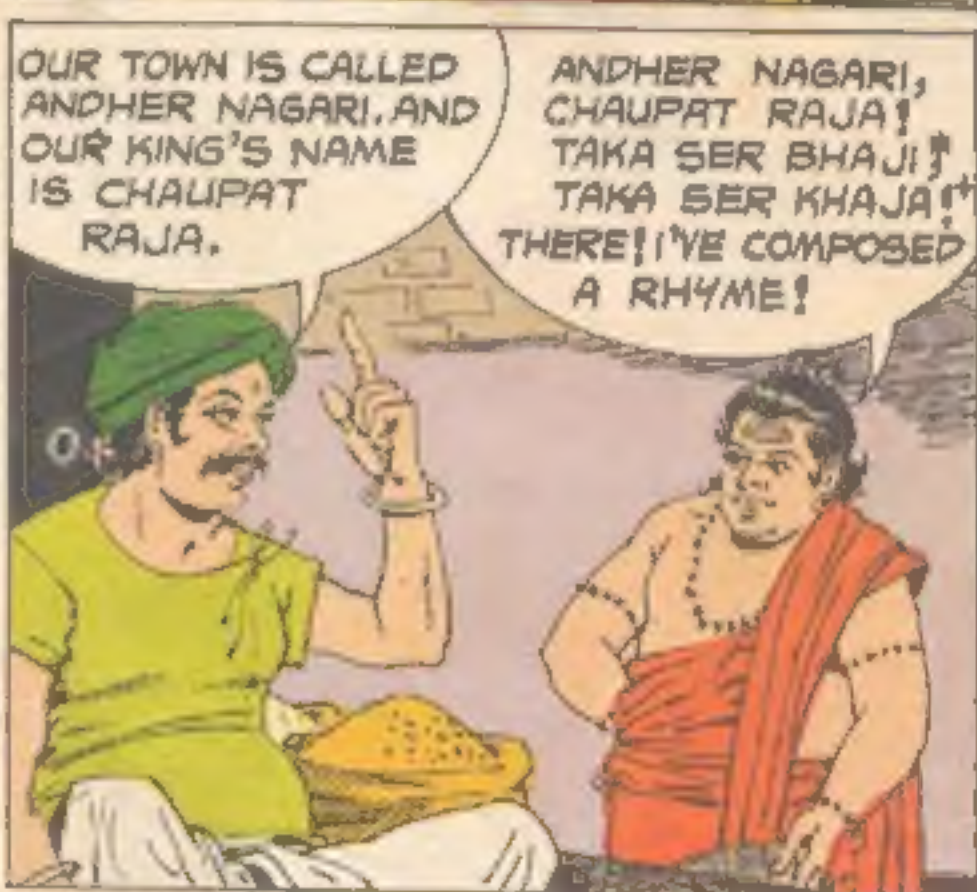
ANY FRUIT!
EVERY FRUIT! THE
RATE IS THE SAME!
TAKA SER! TAKA
SER!



THIS IS INCREDIBLE!
EVERYTHING HERE IS
BEING SOLD FOR A TAKA
A SER. WHAT A STRANGE
PLACE!



TELL ME BROTHER,
WHAT IS THE NAME OF
YOUR TOWN? AND
WHO IS THE
RULER?



OUR TOWN IS CALLED
ANDHER NAGARI. AND
OUR KING'S NAME
IS CHAUPAT
RAJA.

ANDHER NAGARI,
CHAUPAT RAJA!
TAKA SER BHAJI!
TAKA SER KHAJA!
THERE! I'VE COMPOSED
A RHYME!



SO YOU HAVE. NOW
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE
TO BUY, SIR?

SWEETS,
OF COURSE! ONLY
A FOOL WOULD
BUY ANYTHING
ELSE!



ANDHER NAGARI,
CHAUPAT RAJA,
TAKA SER BHAJI,
TAKA SER KHAJA,
ONLY A FOOL WOULD
LEAVE THIS TOWN! SO
THE GURU CERTAINLY
WON'T!

WHEN HE RETURNED TO THE GURU—

WELL, SON, YOUR BUNDLE SEEMS TO BE QUITE HEAVY! DID YOU VISIT MANY HOUSEHOLDS?

WELL, NOT EXACTLY, GURUJI. BUT WAIT TILL I TELL YOU ALL.

BUT... BUT...

PEOPLE HERE DO NOT SEEM TO KNOW THE VALUE OF THINGS. THEY SEEM TO BE FOOLS!

BUT... BUT I THINK THIS TOWN HAS NO PARALLEL! LIFE HERE WILL BE A BED OF ROSES!

WHEN HE FINISHED HIS STORY—

ISN'T THIS TOWN GREAT, GURUJI?

NO, MY SON. NOT AT ALL!

LET'S GET AWAY FROM HERE.

GO AWAY?

PLEASE FORGIVE ME, GURUJI. I WOULD LIKE TO STAY.

STAY IF YOU WANT TO, MY SON. BUT BE ON YOUR GUARD.

NARAYANDAS, DO YOU, TOO, WISH TO STAY?

NO, GURUJI.



THEN LET US GO.



HE IS A GREAT MAN, NO DOUBT, BUT A SIMPLETON WHEN IT COMES TO PRACTICAL MATTERS.



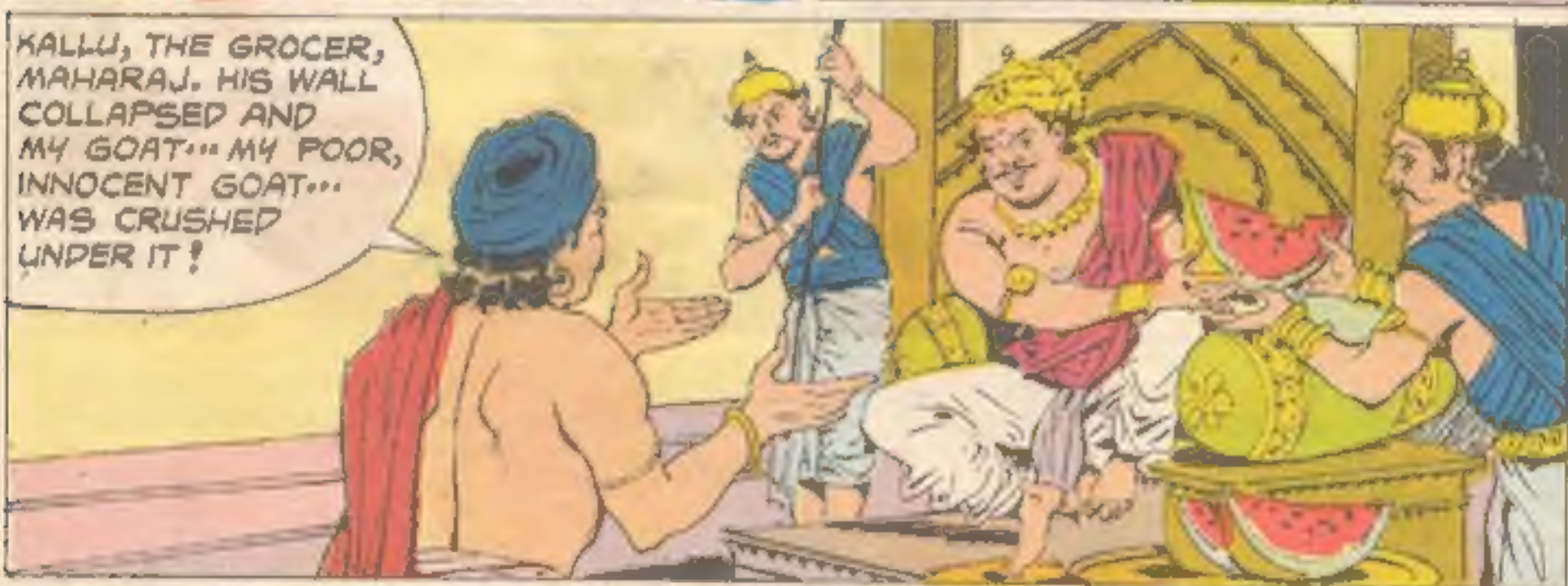
AHA! ANDHER NAGARI IS GREAT! LONG LIVE CHAUPAT RAJA—THE WISEST AND THE FAIREST OF KINGS!



GOVARDHANDAS PERHAPS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN SO LAVISH IN HIS PRAISE OF THE KING IF HE COULD HAVE SEEN WHAT WAS HAPPENING AT THE PALACE AT THAT MOMENT.



JUSTICE!
I WANT JUSTICE!



ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! BRING KALLU HERE, IMMEDIATELY!

YES, MAHARAJ.



THE GROCER WAS BROUGHT TO THE PALACE.

YOUR NEIGHBOUR SAYS YOUR WALL COLLAPSED ON HIS GOAT.



WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY FOR YOURSELF?

IT... IT WAS NOT M-MY FAULT, MAHARAJ.



IF... IF THE CONTRACTOR HAD BUILT A STRONGER WALL IT WOULD NEVER HAVE COLLAPSED.



THE CONTRACTOR WAS BROUGHT BEFORE THE KING.

THE WALL YOU BUILT COLLAPSED AND A GOAT WAS KILLED!



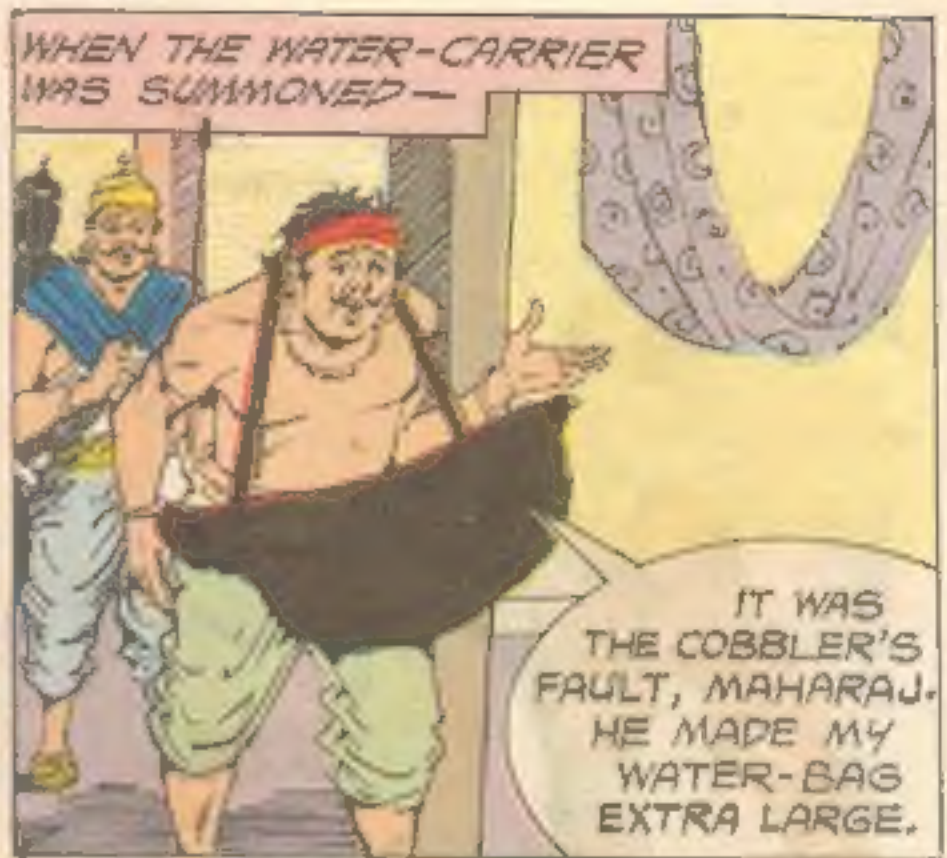
DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY IN YOUR DEFENCE?



YOU HAVE GOT THE WRONG MAN, MAHARAJ! IT'S THE WATER-CARRIER WHO IS TO BE BLAMED.



BECAUSE HE POURED TOO MUCH WATER ON THE LIME, THE BRICKS WERE NOT FIRMLY JOINED. THAT'S WHY THE WALL COLLAPSED!



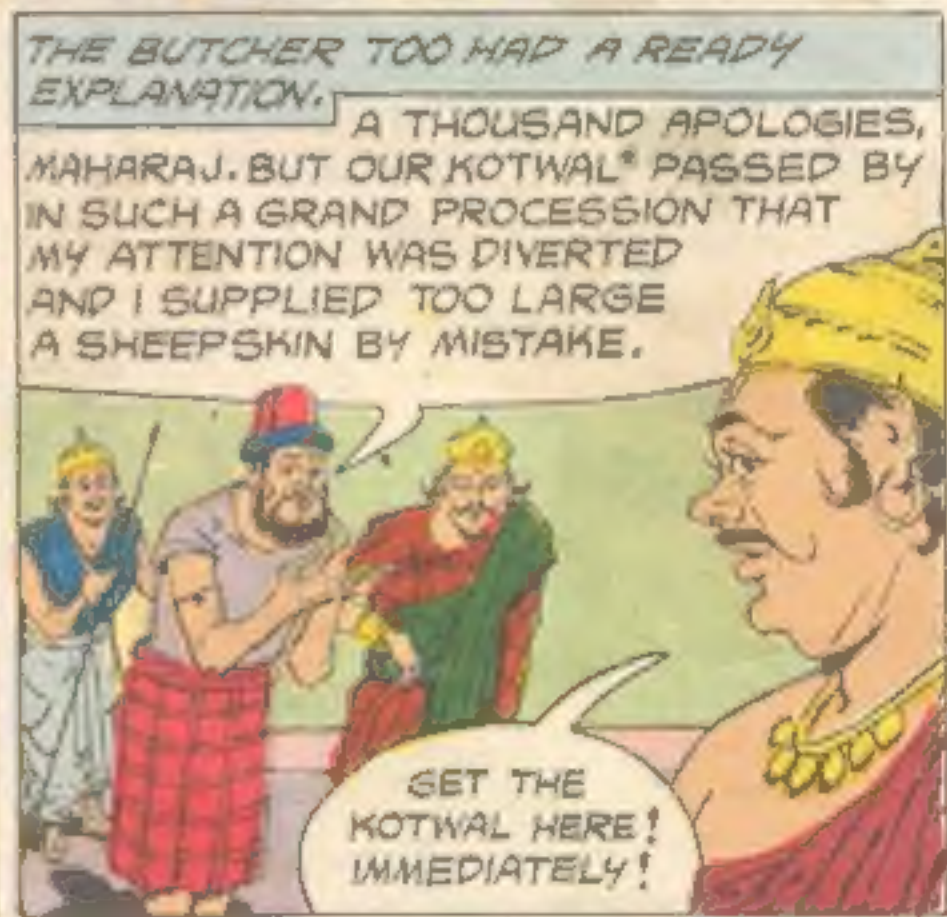
WHEN THE WATER-CARRIER WAS SUMMONED—

IT WAS THE COBBLER'S FAULT, MAHARAJ. HE MADE MY WATER-BAG EXTRA LARGE.



WHEN THE COBBLER WAS BROUGHT IN—

I AM INNOCENT, MAHARAJ. THE BUTCHER SOLD ME THAT HUGE SHEEPSKIN.



THE BUTCHER TOO HAD A READY EXPLANATION.

A THOUSAND APOLOGIES, MAHARAJ. BUT OUR KOTWAL* PASSED BY IN SUCH A GRAND PROCESSION THAT MY ATTENTION WAS DIVERTED AND I SUPPLIED TOO LARGE A SHEEPSKIN BY MISTAKE.

GET THE KOTWAL HERE! IMMEDIATELY!



SOON THE KOTWAL TOO WAS QUESTIONED.

IT WASN'T A GRAND PROCESSION, MAHARAJ. I WAS JUST DOING MY ROUNDS OF THE CITY.

BUT WHY SUCH
POMP AND SHOW THAT
THE BUTCHER'S
ATTENTION WAS
DIVERTED?

YES. WHY?
ANSWER THAT!

BUT... BUT...
YOUR MAJESTY...

NO
BUTS... I'VE
HAD ENOUGH
OF THIS.

TAKE THE KOTWAL AWAY AND
HANG HIM! THE COURT
IS DISMISSED!

MERCY, MAHARAJ!
PLEASE HAVE PITY
ON ME!

JUSTICE KNOWS
NO MERCY! TAKE
HIM AWAY.

THE UNFORTUNATE
KOTWAL WAS LED
TO THE GALLONS.

LET ME
GO! PLEASE
LET ME
GO!

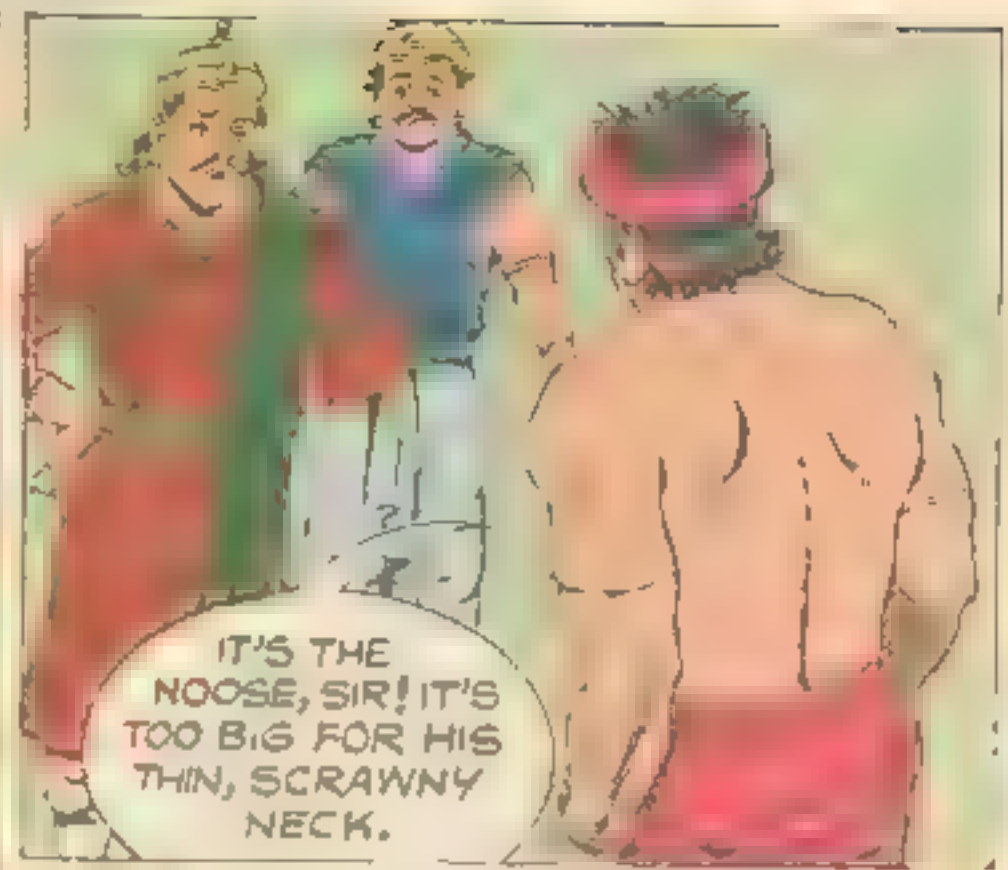
PUT THE NOOSE
ROUND HIS
NECK!



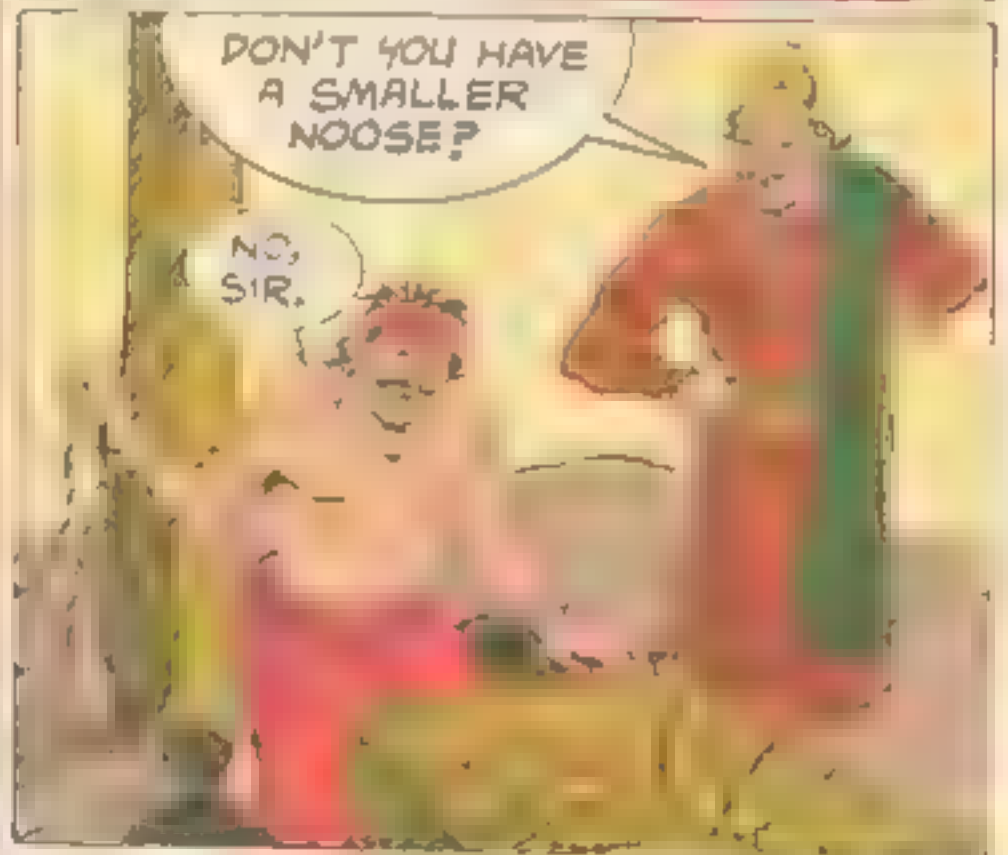


LET ME DOWN!

SOMETHING IS WRONG SOMEWHERE. THE NOOSE...

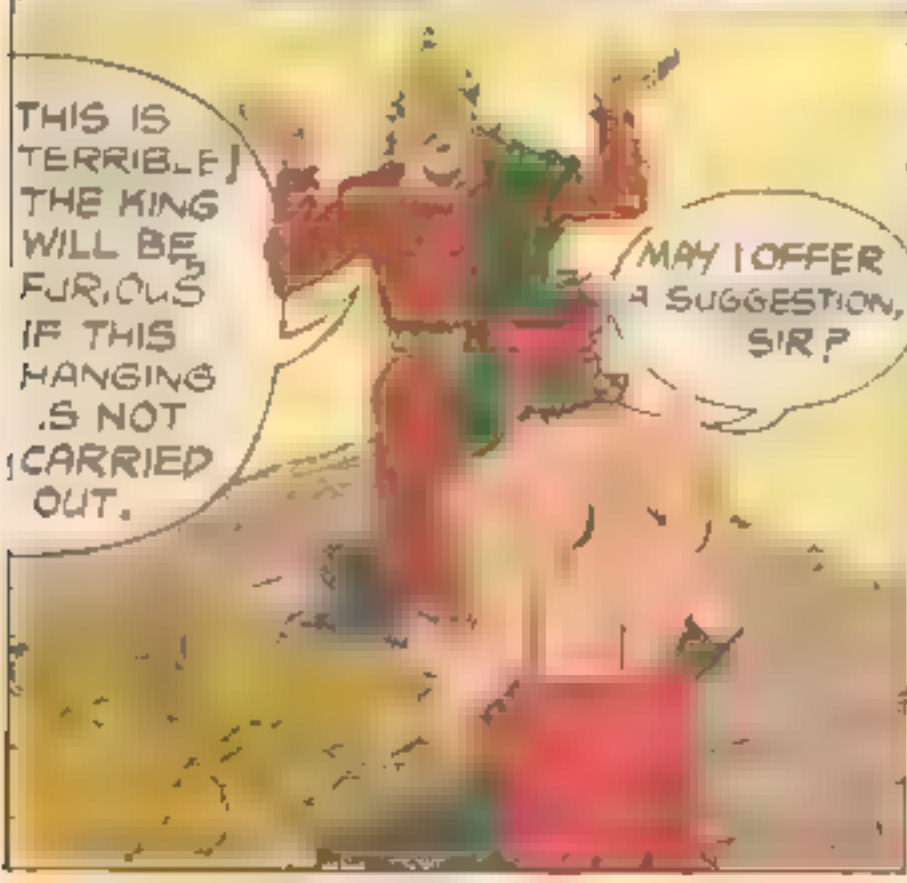


IT'S THE NOOSE, SIR! IT'S TOO BIG FOR HIS THIN, SCRAWNY NECK.



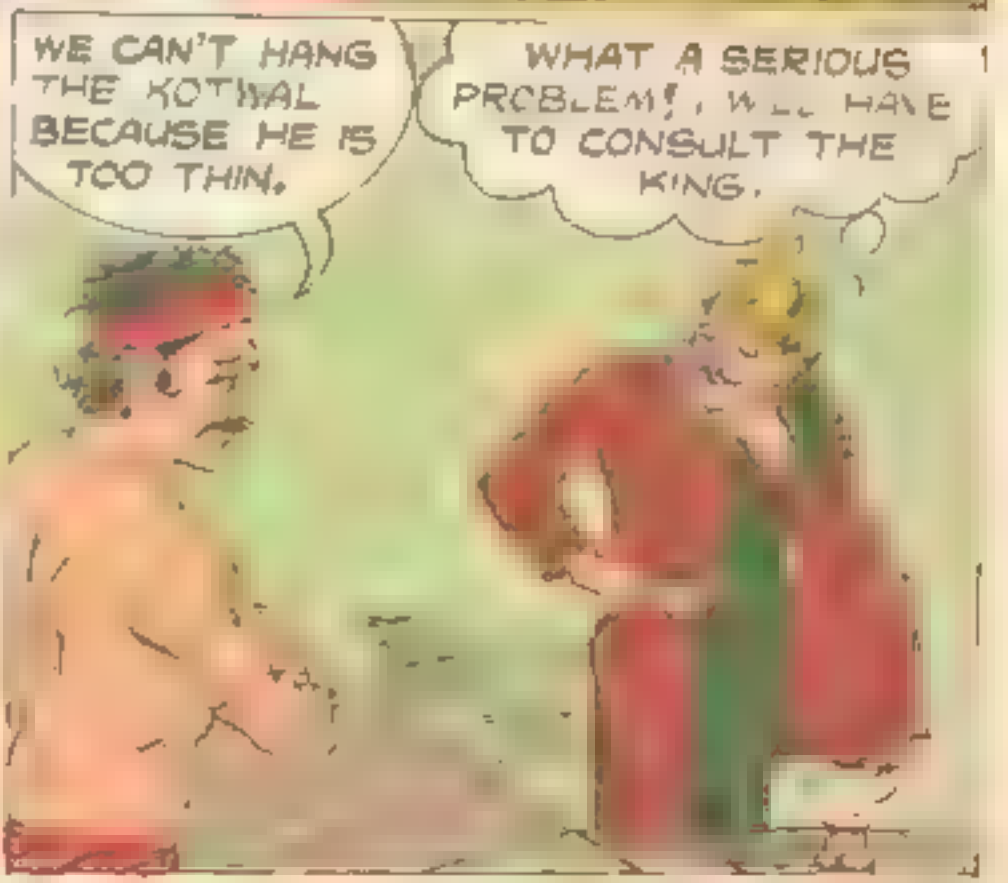
DON'T YOU HAVE A SMALLER NOOSE?

NO, SIR.



THIS IS TERRIBLE! THE KING WILL BE FURIOUS IF THIS HANGING IS NOT CARRIED OUT.

MAY I OFFER A SUGGESTION, SIR?



WE CAN'T HANG THE KOTWAL BECAUSE HE IS TOO THIN.

WHAT A SERIOUS PROBLEM! I WILL HAVE TO CONSULT THE KING.

THE MINISTER WAS SOON BACK WITH THE KING'S ORDERS.

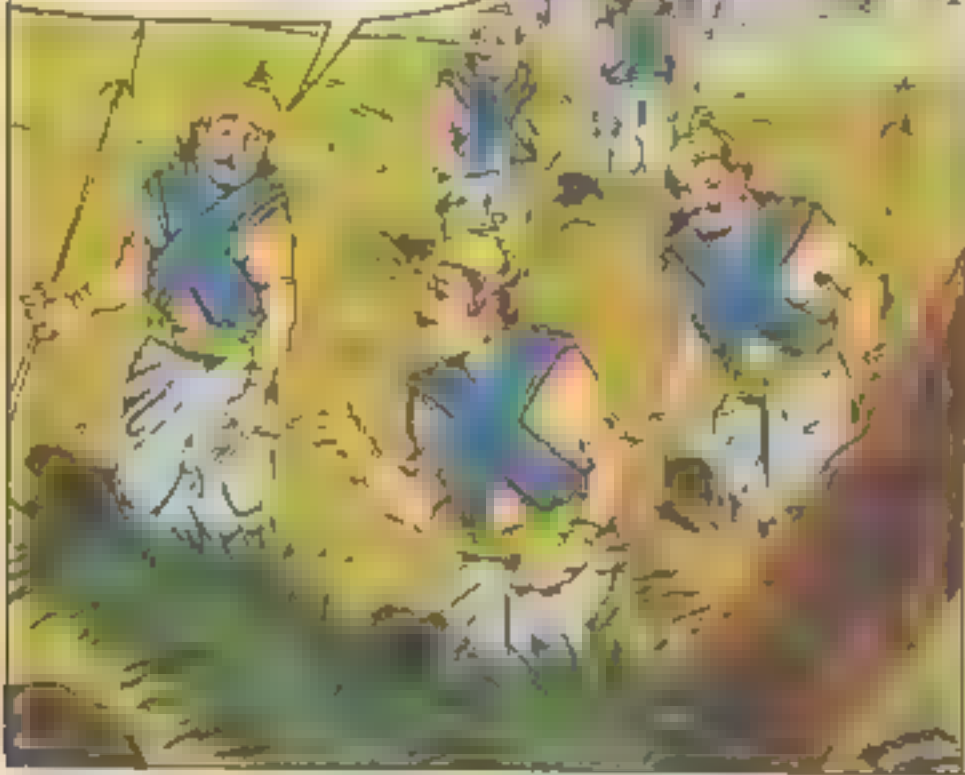
GO AND FIND A FAT
MAN. AND BE QUICK
ABOUT IT.

AND MAKE SURE
HE HAS A THICK
NECK.

THE SOLDIERS LOOKED EVERYWHERE
FOR A FAT MAN...

...BUT ALL THE FAT MEN HAD GONE INTO
HIDING.

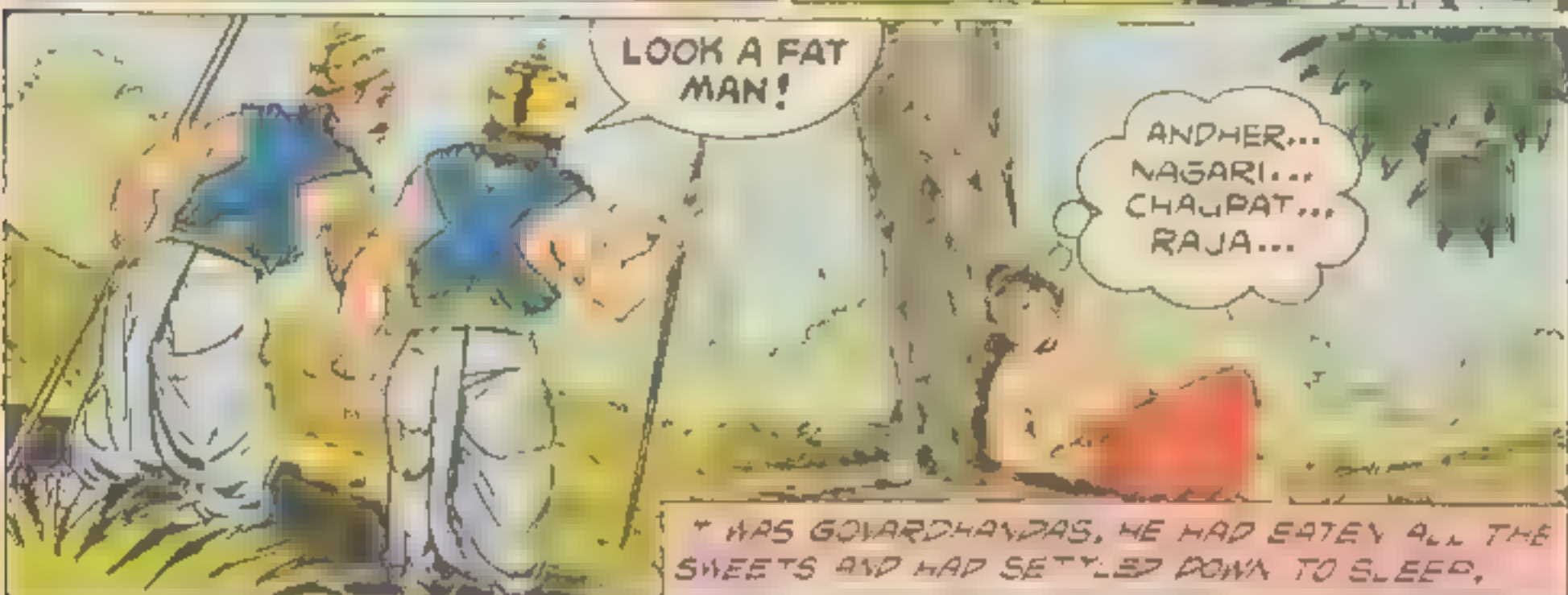
IF WE DON'T FIND
A FAT MAN SOON, THE
KING WILL HANG US
INSTEAD.



I CAN ALREADY FEEL
THE NOOSE ROUND
MY NECK.



LOOK A FAT
MAN!

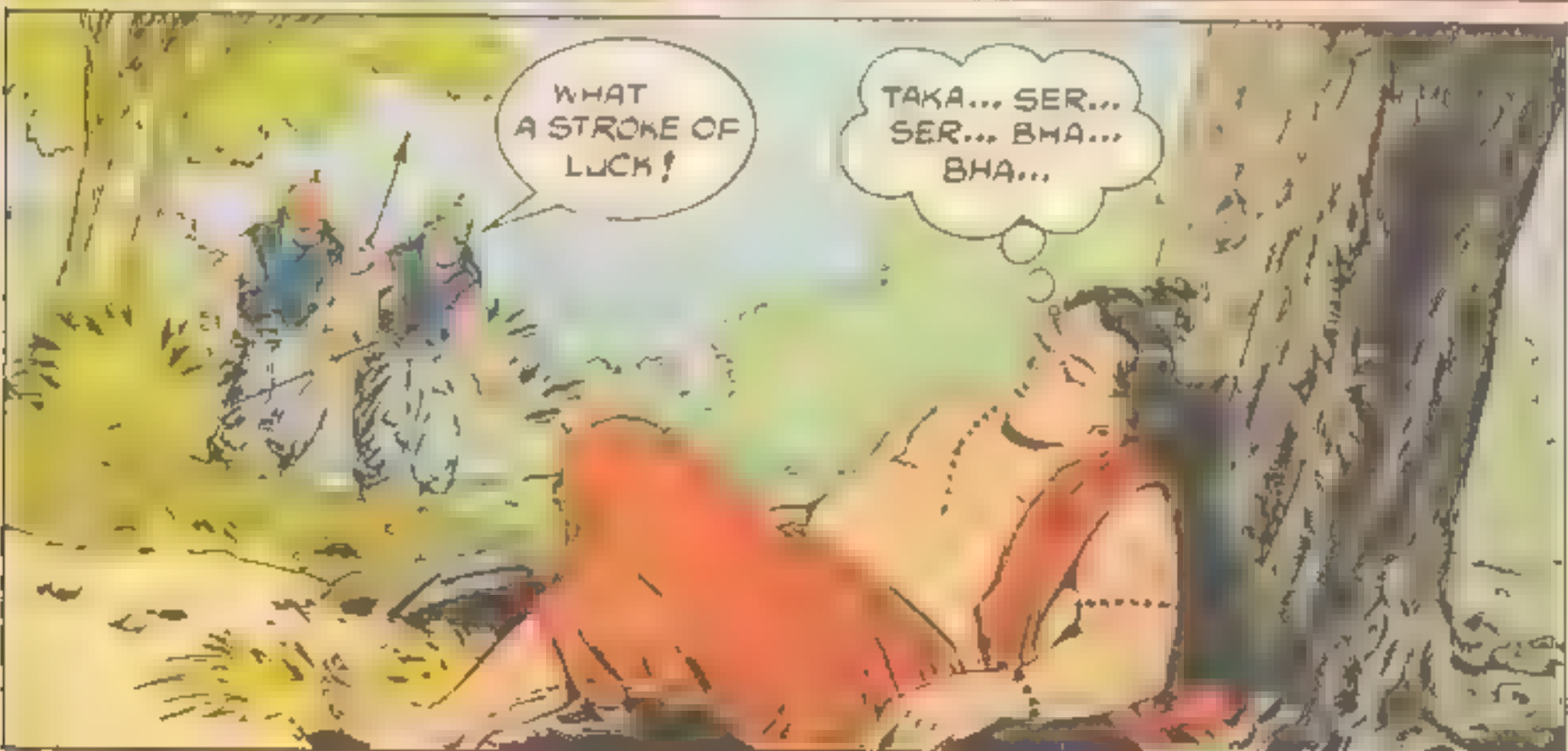


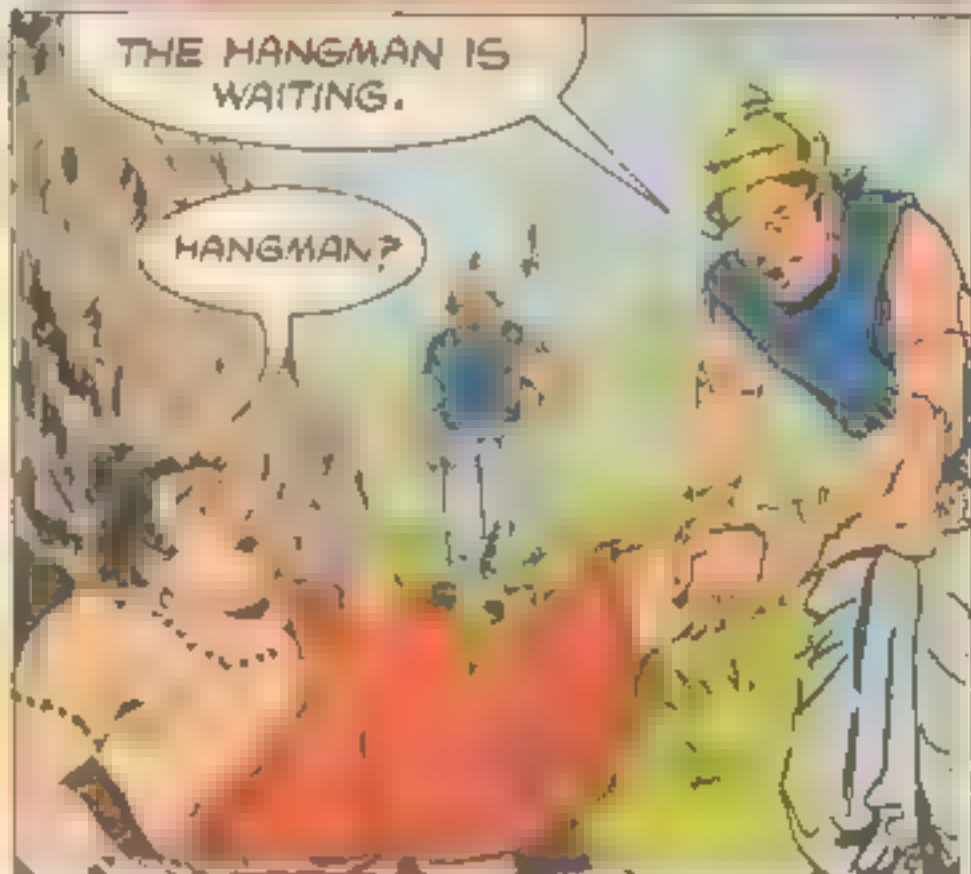
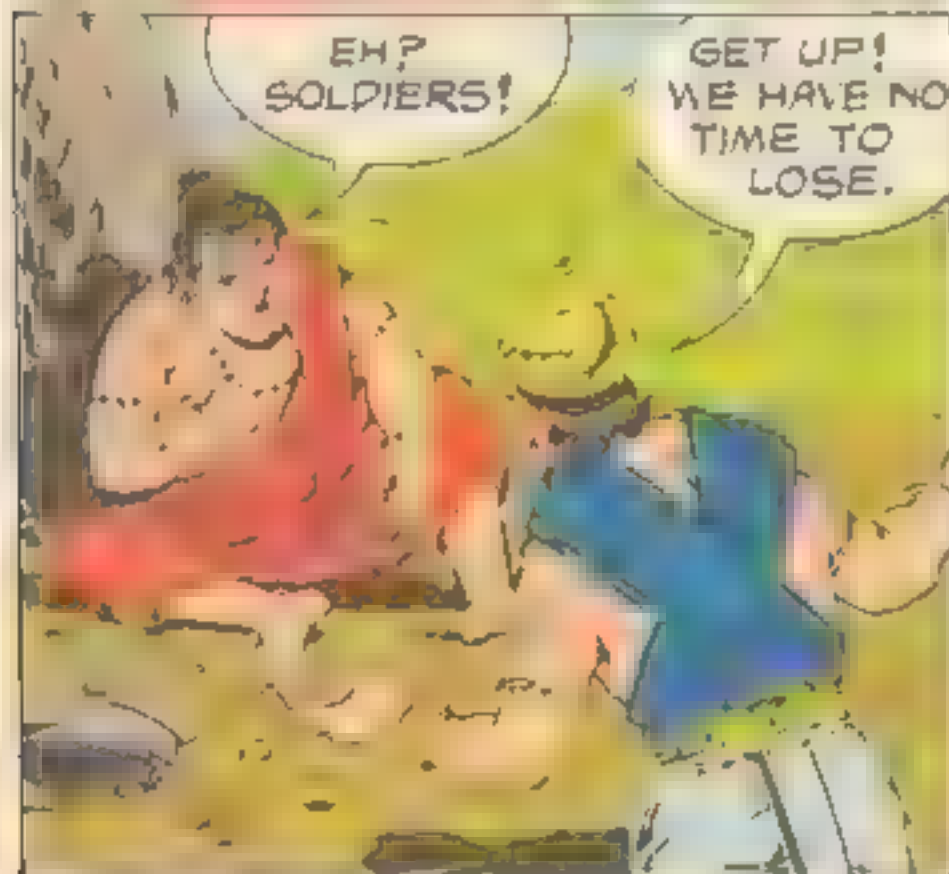
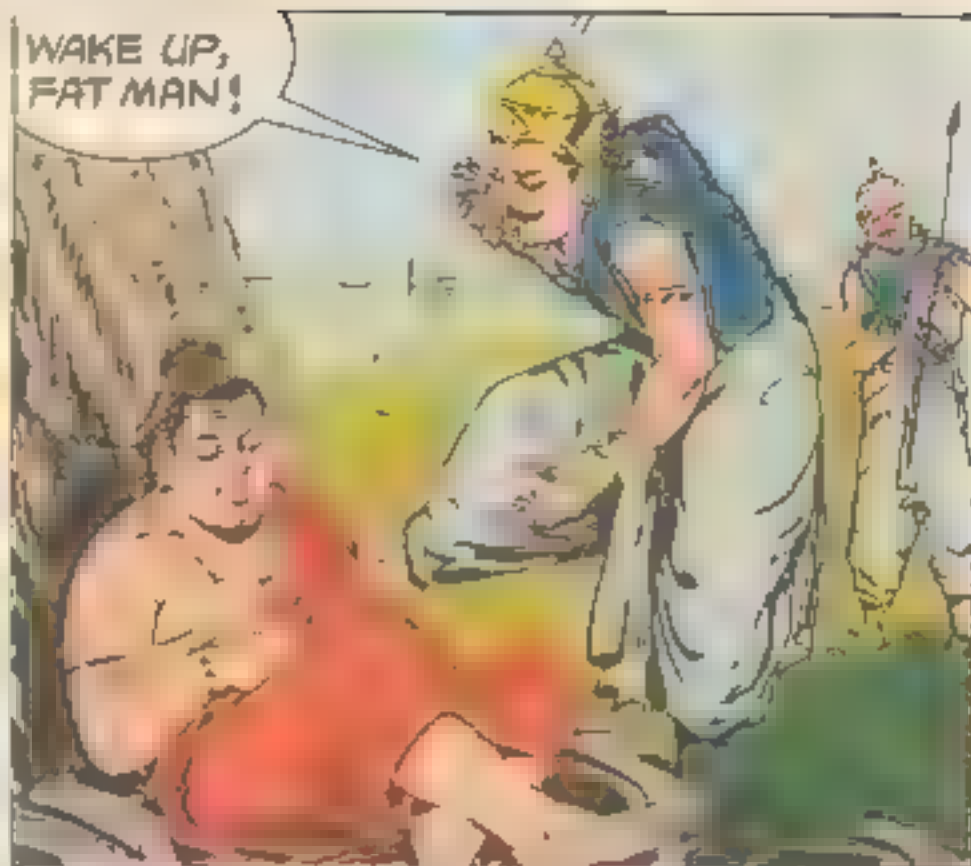
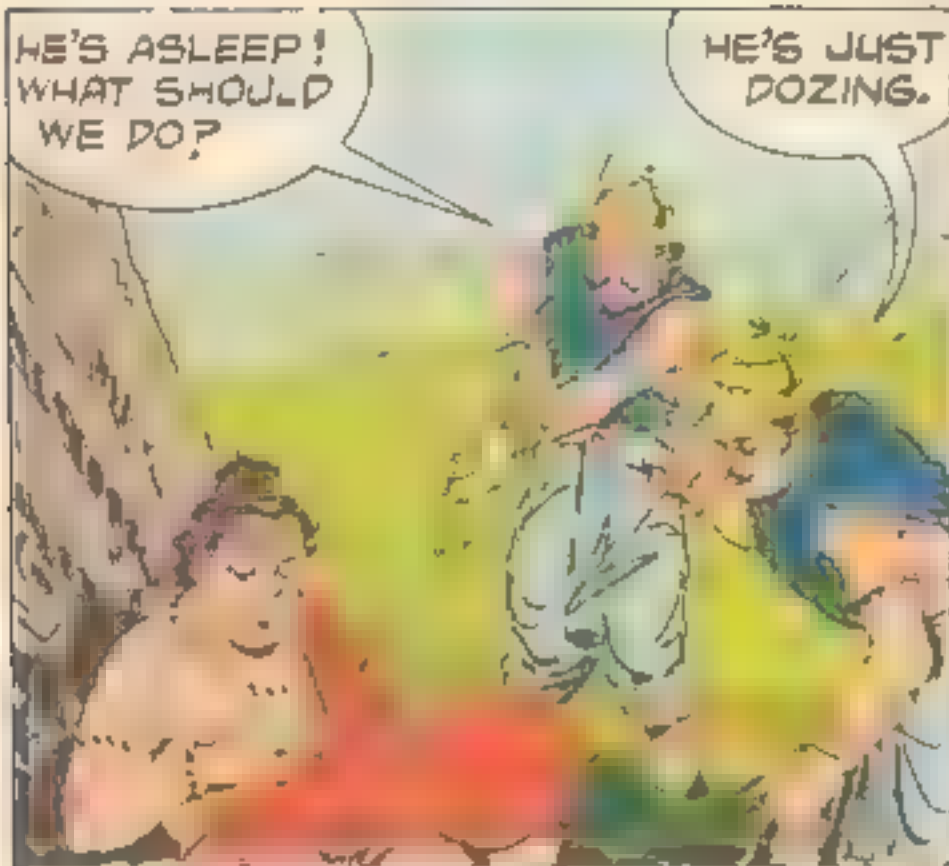
ANDHER...
NAGARI...
CHAUPAT...
RAJA...

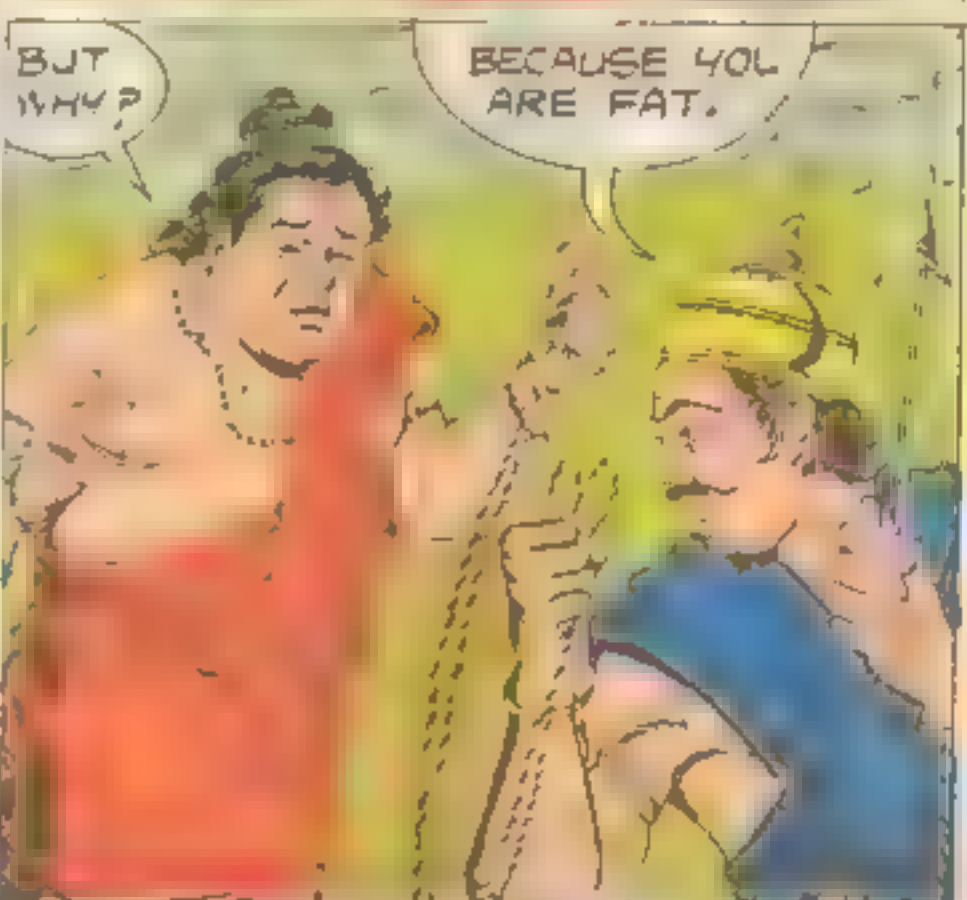
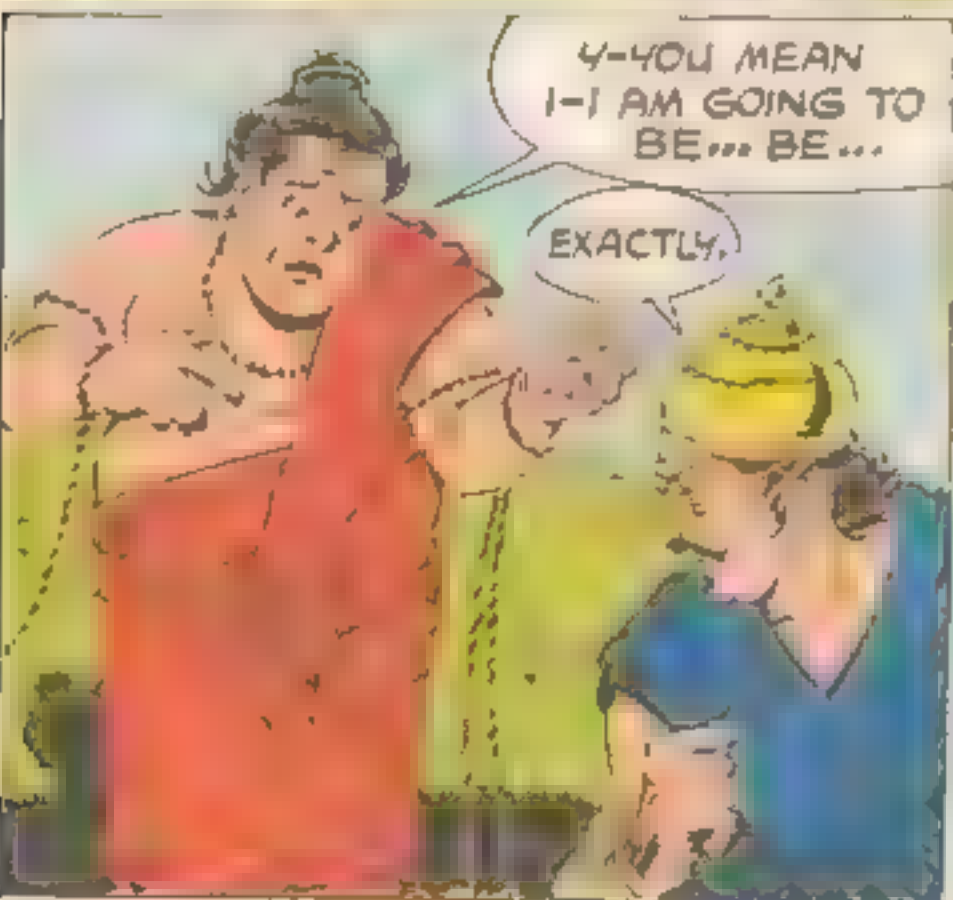
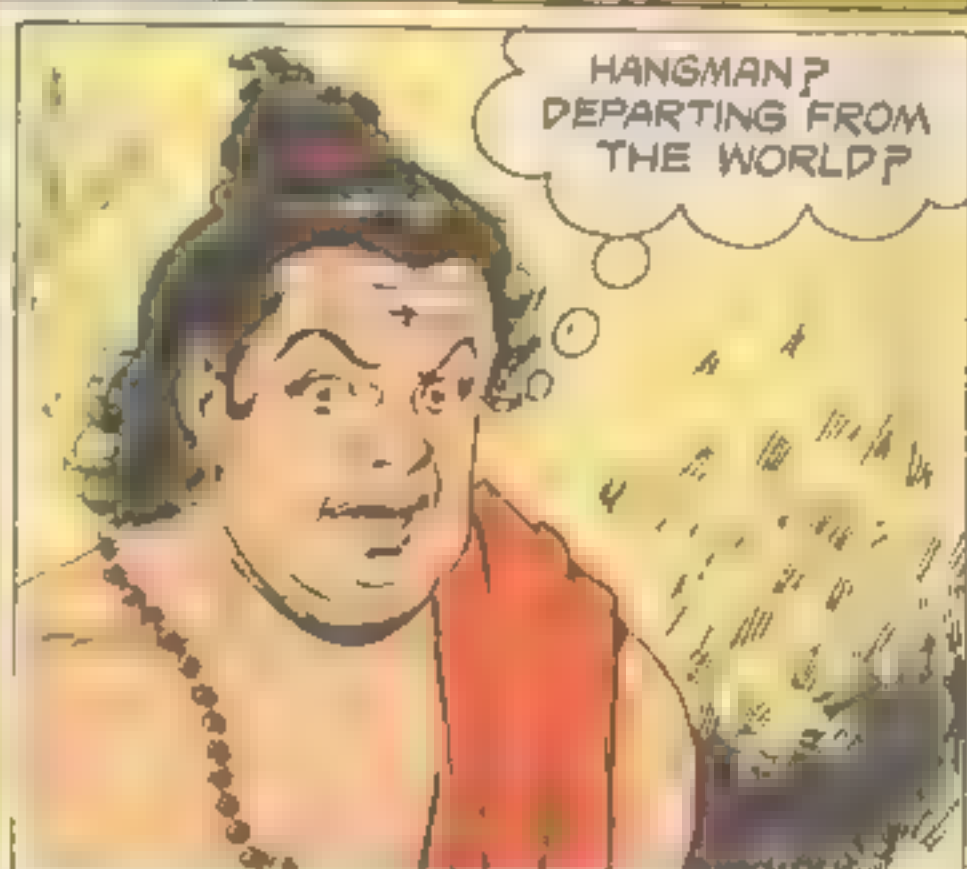
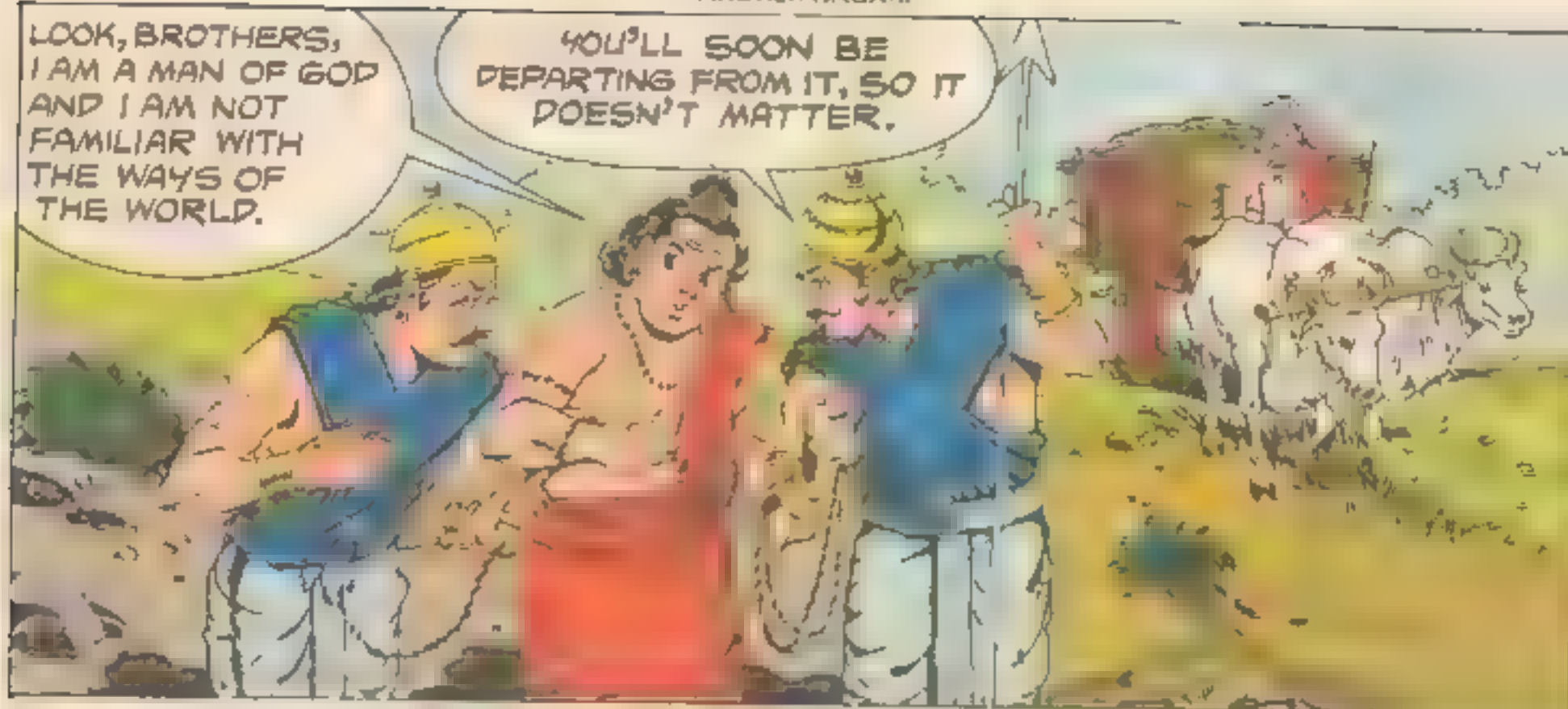
* WAS GOVARDHANDAS, HE HAD EATEY ALL THE
SWEETS AND HAD SETTLED DOWN TO SLEEP,

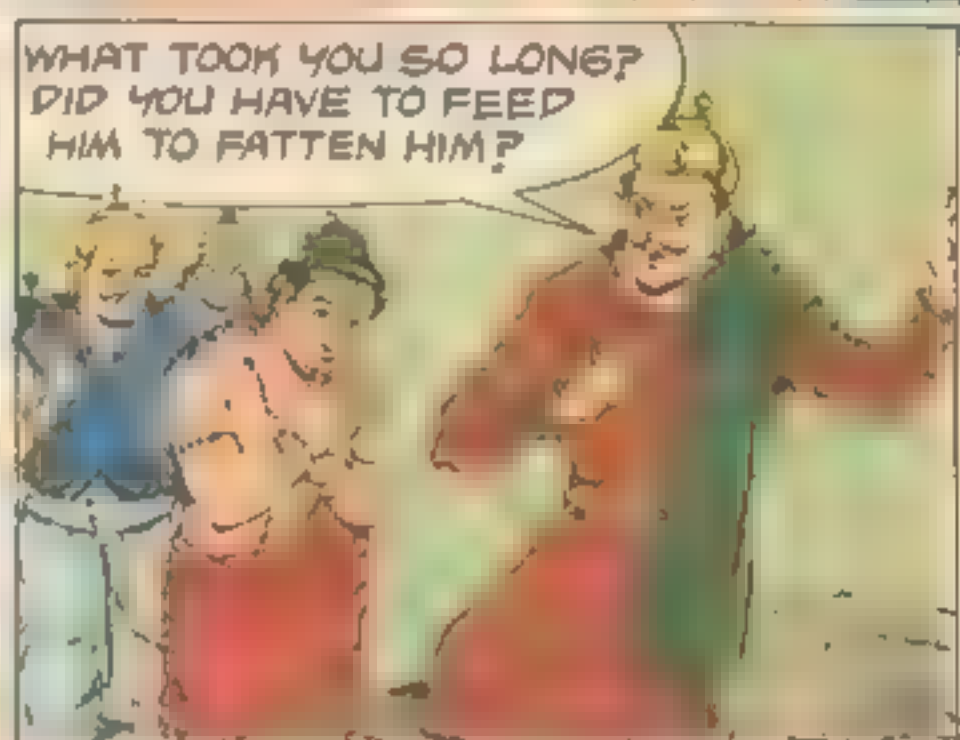
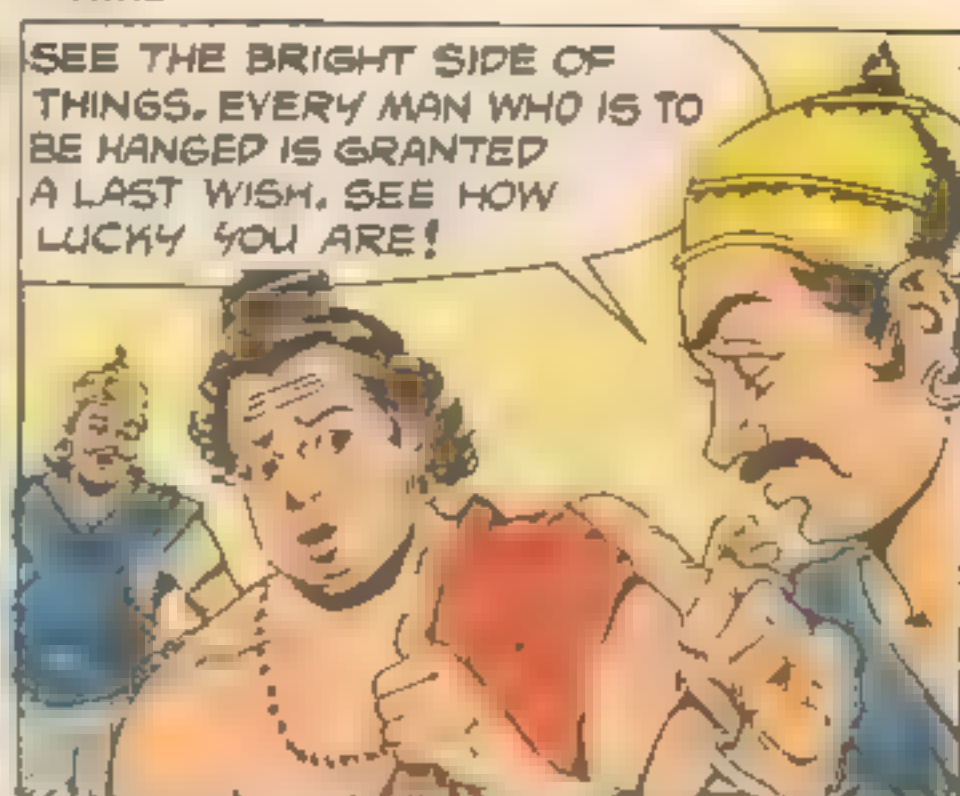
WHAT
A STROKE OF
LUCK!

TAKA... SER...
SER... BHA...
BHA...











OH, IF ONLY GURUJI WERE HERE!



HE IS HERE! GURUJI!



SAVE ME, GURUJI! THESE PEOPLE ARE ABOUT TO HANG ME FOR SOME UNKNOWN REASON.

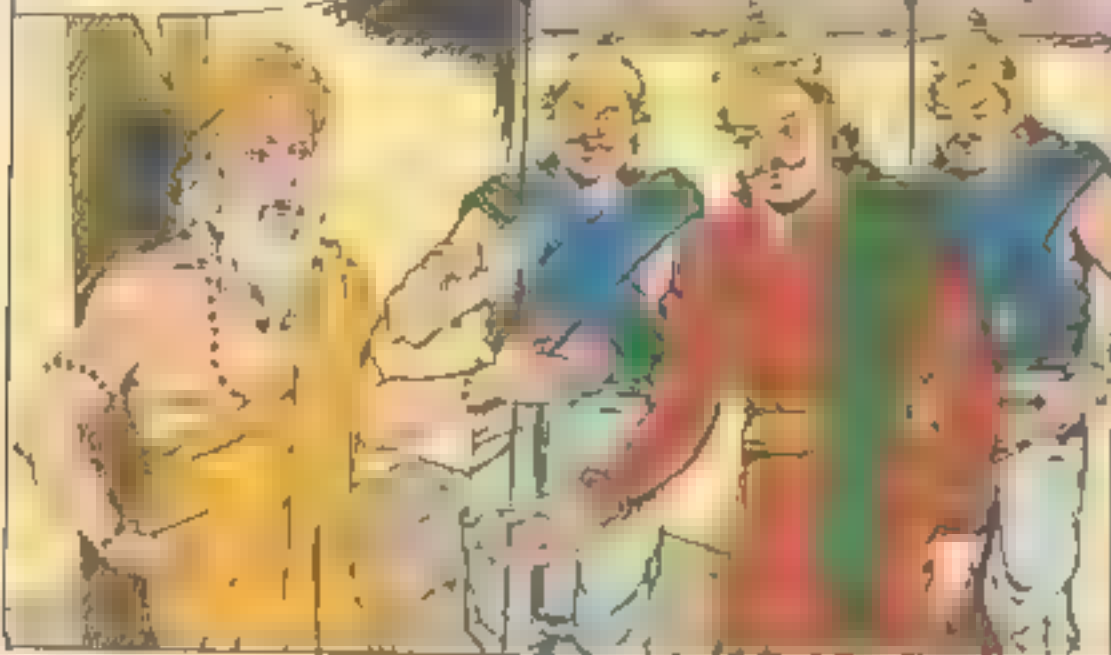
I KNOW THE WHOLE STORY.



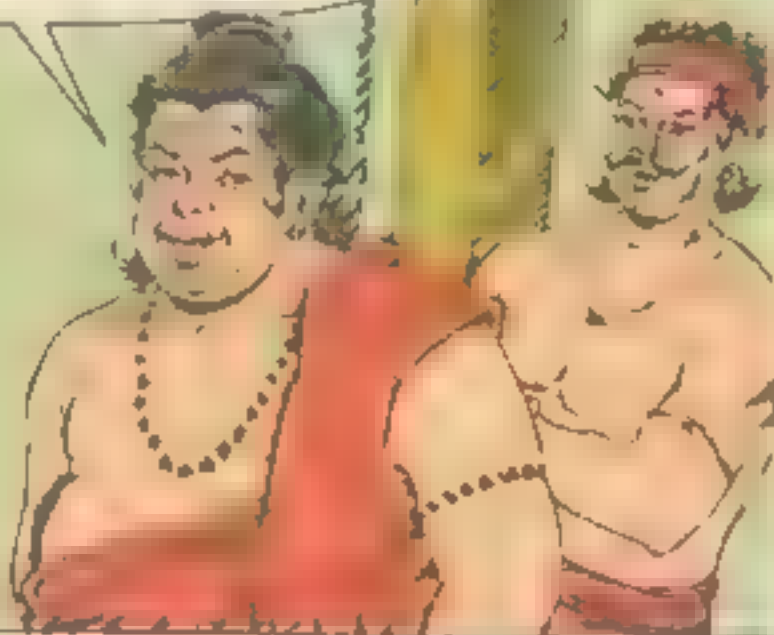
WE DID NOT LEAVE THE TOWN AFTER ALL. WE MET A HOLY MAN WHO TOOK US TO HIS HOUSE.

MAY I HAVE A FEW WORDS WITH MY DISCIPLE IN PRIVATE? MY LAST SERMON TO HIM. YOU HAVE NO OBJECTION, I HOPE.

NONE, WHATSOEVER, HOLY ONE, PLEASE GO AHEAD.

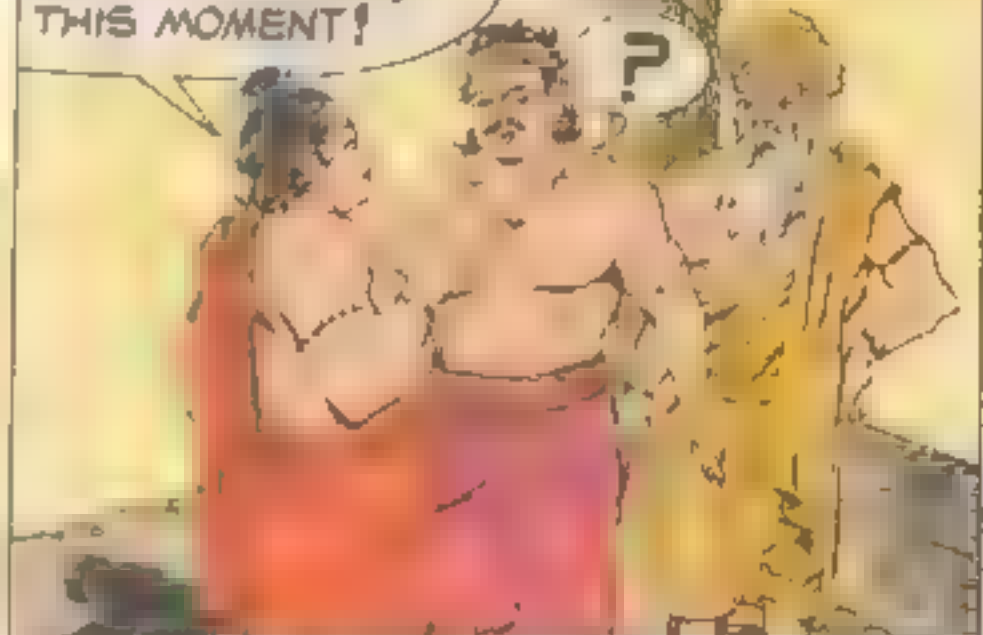


I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! HOW ABSOLUTELY DIVINE! OH, HOW FORTUNATE I AM!



I CAN'T WAIT ANYMORE! PLEASE HANG ME SOON! THIS MOMENT!

NO, WAIT!



YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME, YOUR GURU. I MUST BE HANGED IN YOUR PLACE. PLEASE!

BUT YOU CAN'T DEPRIVE ME OF MY GOOD LUCK, GURUJI.



SON, I AM AN OLD MAN. YOU SHOULD CONCEDE THIS PRIVILEGE TO ME.

YOU FORGET IT WAS I WHO WAS SENTENCED.

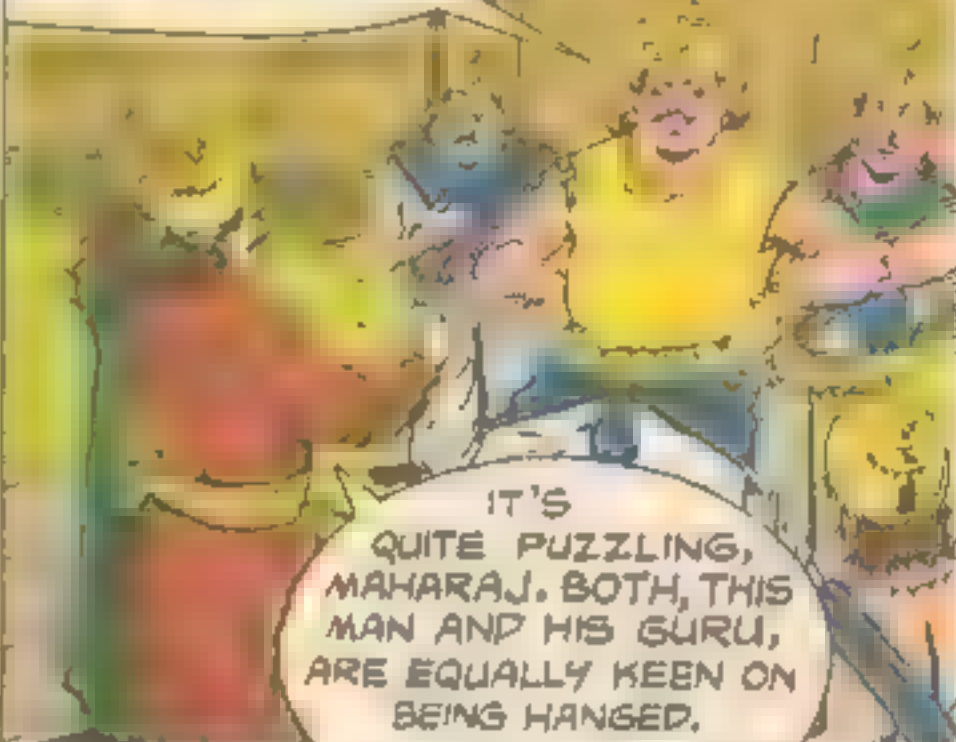


BESIDES, YOU ARE A SAINT. YOU'LL GO TO HEAVEN IN ANY CASE, WHEREAS THIS IS MY ONLY CHANCE.



JUST THEN—

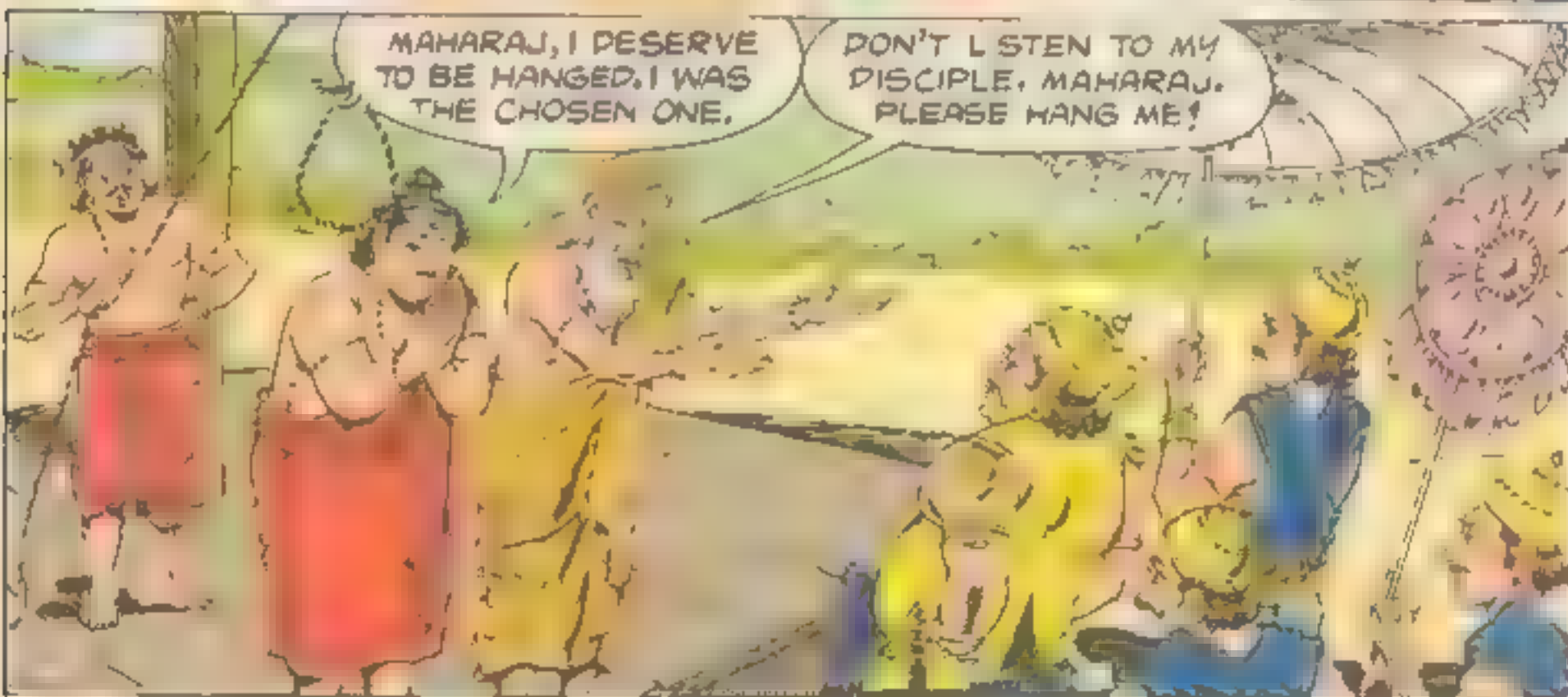
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? WHY HAVEN'T YOU HANGED THIS MAN AS YET?



IT'S QUITE PUZZLING, MAHARAJ. BOTH, THIS MAN AND HIS GURU, ARE EQUALLY KEEN ON BEING HANGED.

MAHARAJ, I DESERVE TO BE HANGED. I WAS THE CHOSEN ONE.

DON'T LISTEN TO MY DISCIPLE, MAHARAJ. PLEASE HANG ME!



BUT WHY, O HOLY ONE? WHY DO YOU WANT TO DIE?

BECAUSE KNOW WHAT NOBODY... NOBODY EXCEPT MY DISCIPLE... KNOWS.



AND
WHAT IS
IT?

WELL...YOUR
MAJESTY...I HAVE
DIVINED THAT WHOEVER
DIES AT THIS MOMENT
WILL GO STRAIGHT TO
HEAVEN!

REALLY? THEN I SHOULD BE
THE ONE TO BE HANGED.

NO, NO, NO!
REMEMBER
THE WALL FELL
BECAUSE
OF ME.

BUT I AM
THE FAT
ONE.

BE QUIET, ALL
OF YOU! HOW DARE
ANYONE TALK OF
GOING TO HEAVEN
WHEN I, THE
SOVEREIGN, AM
HERE! IT IS MY
BIRTHRIGHT
TO GO TO
HEAVEN!

HANG ME! HANG
ME, THIS MOMENT!
I COMMAND
YOU!

DON'T
FEEL SORRY
FOR HIM, MY
CHILDREN. HE
INVITED IT UPON
HIMSELF.

HAZAAR MAARYA

IN THE KINGDOM OF RAJPLR THERE LIVED A LAZY MAN CALLED BALU.



HIS WIFE SONUBAI WAS ALWAYS TRYING TO GET HIM TO DO SOME WORK.



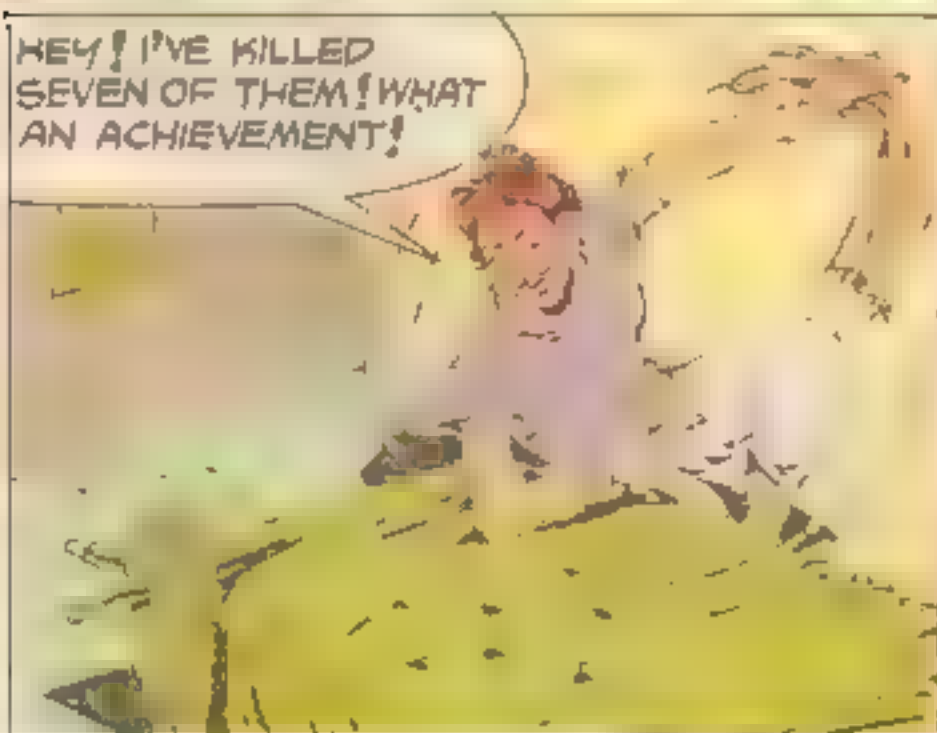
GO AND CHOP SOME WOOD FOR THE FIRE.



A MAN CAN'T SLEEP IN PEACE AROUND HERE... OH! THESE FLIES!



HEY! I'VE KILLED SEVEN OF THEM! WHAT AN ACHIEVEMENT!



I WONDER HOW MANY I COULD FINISH OFF IN A WHOLE DAY.



FROM THAT DAY, BALL WAS A MAN WITH
A MISSION. HE WOULD KILL FLIES WHENEVER
AND WHEREVER HE SAW THEM.

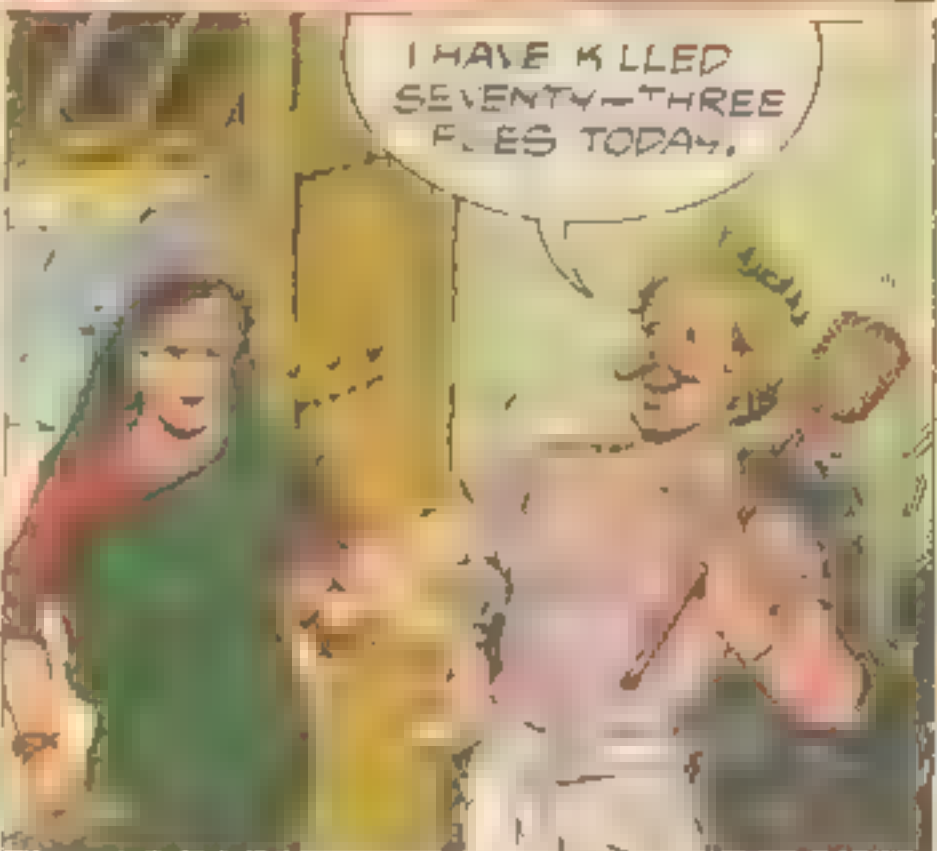


EVEN AT HOME, AT MEAL TIMES, HE DID
NOT RELAX.



GOT
THEM!

OH!
YOU'VE
SPILT MY
DELICIOUS
CURRY.

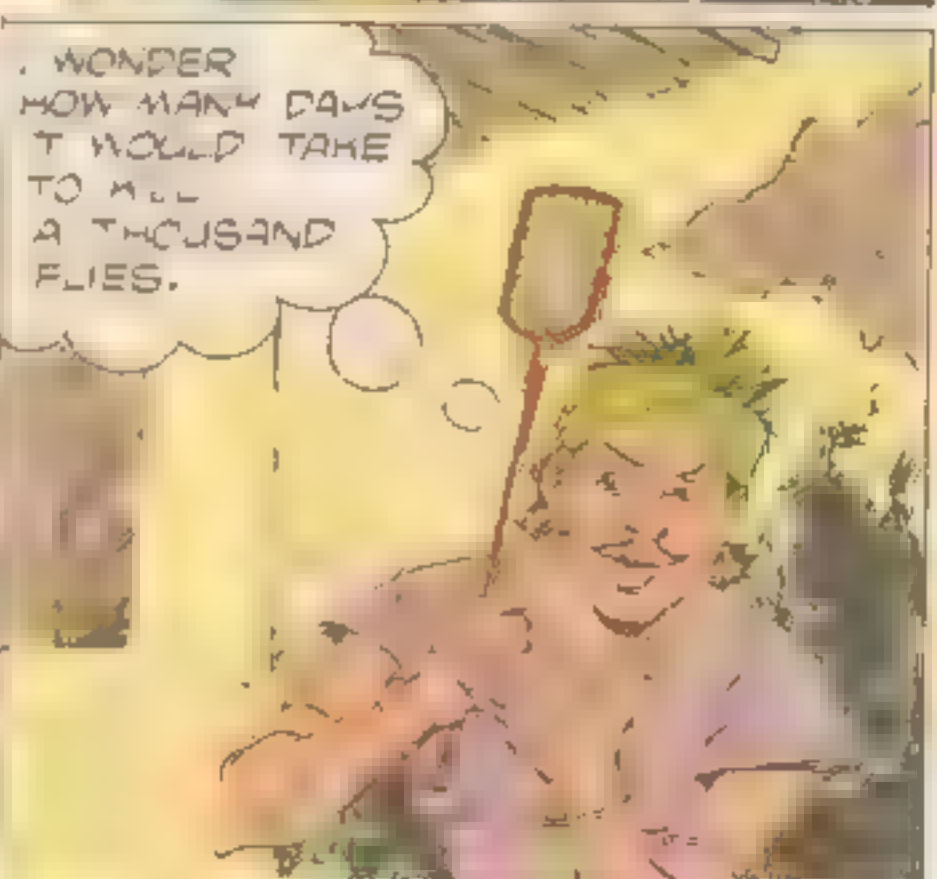


I HAVE KILLED
SEVENTY-THREE
FLIES TODAY.



JUST IMAGINE!
SEVENTY-
AHH!

GET
OUT OF
HERE!



I WONDER
HOW MANY DAYS
IT WOULD TAKE
TO KILL
A THOUSAND
FLIES.

AT LAST ONE DAY —

HA! THAT MAKES
THE THOUSANDTH
FLY! I'VE KILLED
A THOUSAND.

HE HAS KILLED
A THOUSAND!

THERE GOES
THE KILLER OF
A THOUSAND!

... AND THROUGHOUT THE
KINGDOM OF RAUPUR.

THAT MAN IS A KILLER
OF A THOUSAND.

AHA!
HAZAAR
MAARYA!

SOME DAYS LATER AT THE KING'S COURT —

MAHARAJ, OUR
ENEMIES ARE AT
THE CITY
GATES.

THERE ARE THOUSANDS
OF SOLDIERS, SEVERAL
HUNDRED HORSES AND AT
LEAST A HUNDRED
ELEPHANTS.

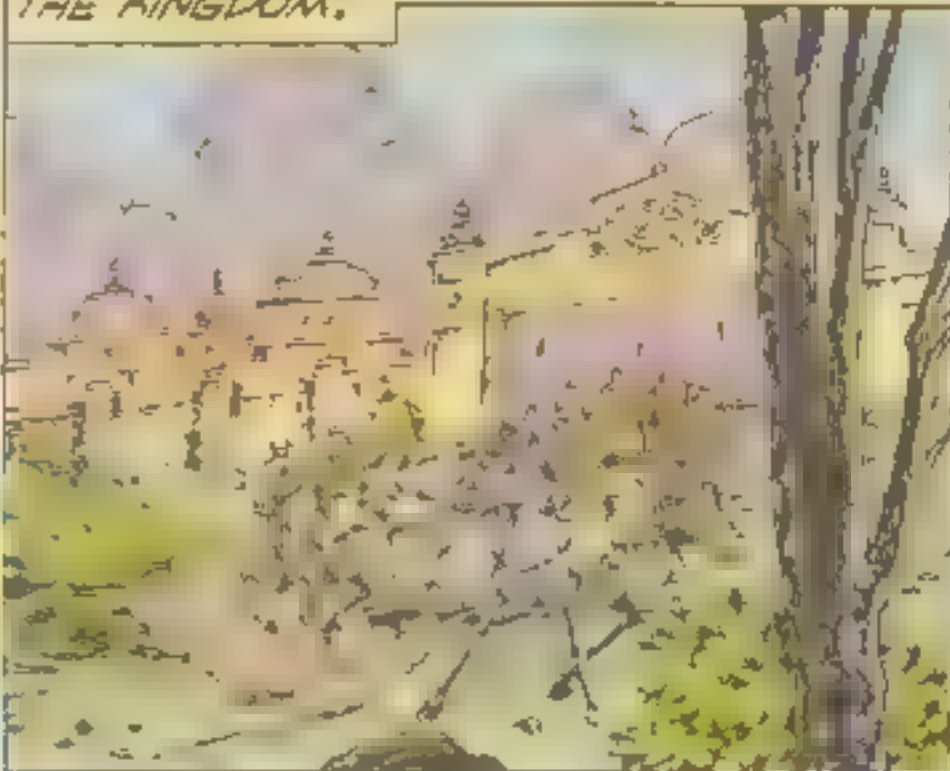
THEIR
SWORDS AND
ARMOUR DAZZLE
THE EYE.

OUR ARMY IS STRONG ENOUGH, MAHARAJ. BUT WE LACK AN ABLE GENERAL.

SEND OUT A DOZEN MESSENGERS TO LOOK FOR A WORTHY MAN. HE SHOULD BE HERE BEFORE SUNDOWN.



THE SEARCH BEGAN. MESSENGERS WERE DESPATCHED TO EVERY CORNER OF THE KINGDOM.



ONE MESSENGER RODE TO THE MARKET-PLACE. THERE —

HERE COMES HAZAAR MAARYA!

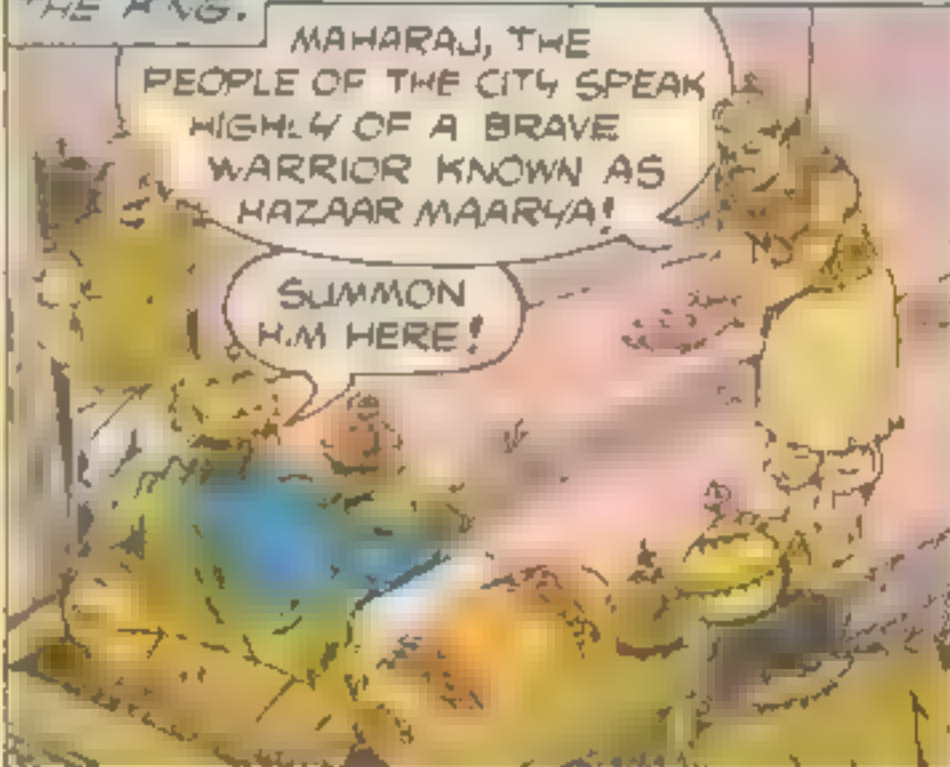
HE'S THE GREAT WARRIOR WHO HAS KILLED A THOUSAND, ISN'T HE?



THE MESSENGER RUSHED BACK TO THE KING.

MAHARAJ, THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY SPEAK HIGHLY OF A BRAVE WARRIOR KNOWN AS HAZAAR MAARYA!

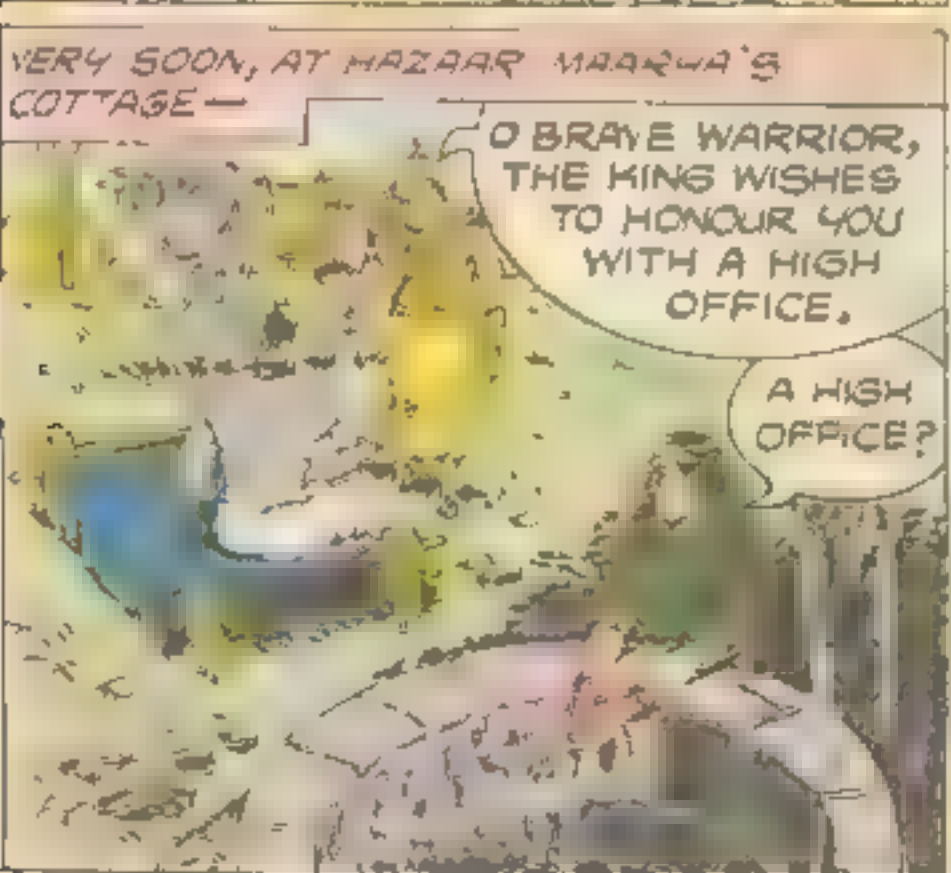
SUMMON HIM HERE!



VERY SOON, AT HAZAAR MAARYA'S COTTAGE —

O BRAVE WARRIOR, THE KING WISHES TO HONOUR YOU WITH A HIGH OFFICE.

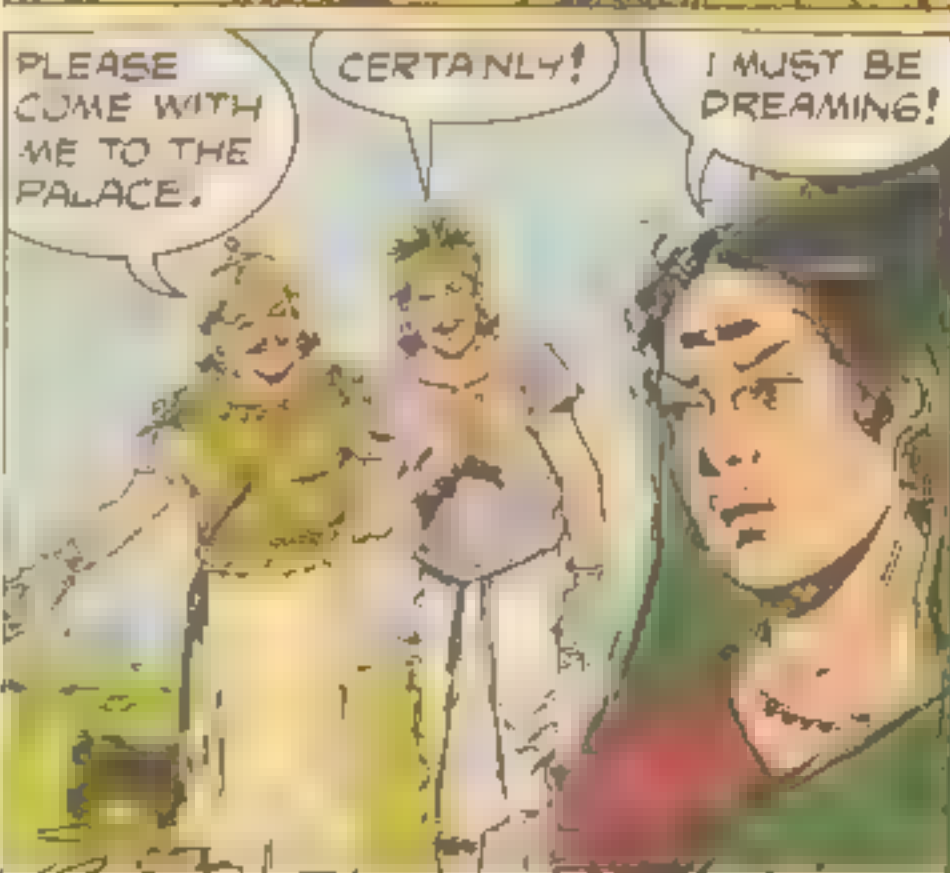
A HIGH OFFICE?



PLEASE COME WITH ME TO THE PALACE.

CERTAINLY!

I MUST BE DREAMING!



LATER, AT THE PALACE—

SO YOU ARE THE FAMOUS HAZAAR MAARYA. WE ARE TOLD YOU HAVE KILLED A THOUSAND.

THAT'S TRUE, MAHARAJ.

I GIVE YOU THE COMMAND OF ALL MY ARMIES, AND ORDER YOU TO LEAD THEM TO VICTORY AGAINST OUR ENEMIES.

I SHALL DO MY BEST TO OBEY YOUR COMMANDS AND BRING GLORY TO YOU, MAHARAJ.

YOUR HORSE AND ARMOUR SHALL BE SENT TO YOUR COTTAGE.

YOUR WISH IS MY COMMAND, YOUR MAJESTY.

THAT NIGHT AT THE ENEMY CAMP—

DO YOU KNOW WHO IS TO LEAD THE ARMY OF RAJPUK TOMORROW?

IT'S HAZAAR MAARYA!

HAZAAR MAARYA... THE KILLER OF A THOUSAND.

THE NEWS SPREAD LIKE WILDFIRE THROUGHOUT THE ENEMY CAMP.

WHEN MORNING DAWNED —

I SHALL BRING
VICTORY AND HONOUR TO
RAJPUK TODAY.

INDEED
YOU SHALL,
MY LORD!

BUT I'D BETTER NOT TAKE
ANY CHANCES. THE COWARD MIGHT
JUMP OFF HIS HORSE AND RUN
AWAY DURING THE BATTLE.

WHAT ARE YOU
DOING?

I AM TYING
YOU TO YOUR
HORSE, MY
LORD.

OTHERWISE IN
YOUR EAGERNESS
TO FIGHT YOU MIGHT
JUMP OFF THE HORSE
AND ATTACK THE
ENEMY ON FOOT.

LATER AT THE PALACE
GROUNDS —

WELCOME, BRAVE GENERAL ! THIS
IS YOUR ARMY. NOW LEAD
IT TO VICTORY !

I SHALL DO
MY BEST,
MAHARAJ.

THE ARMY RODE OUT...

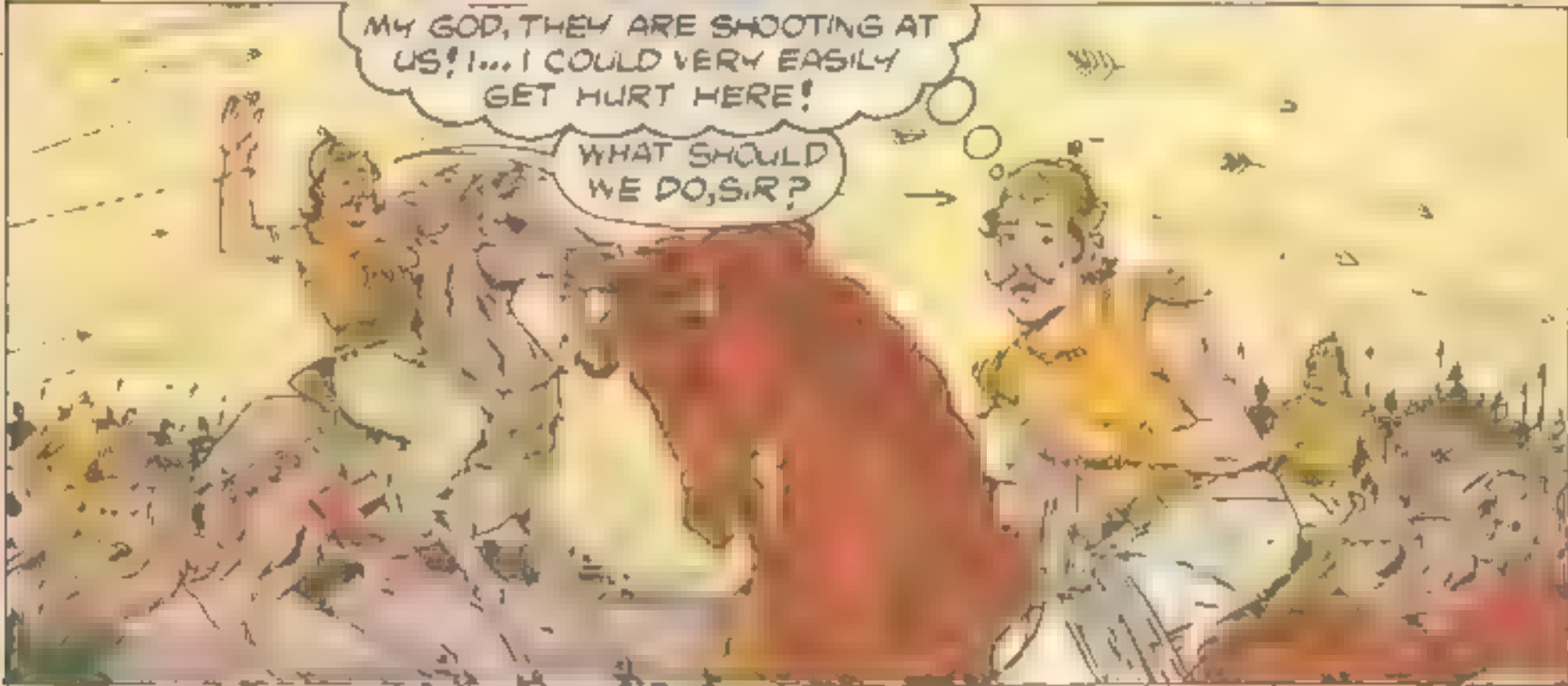


...TO THE BATTLEFIELD.



MY GOD, THEY ARE SHOOTING AT US! I... I COULD VERY EASILY GET HURT HERE!

WHAT SHOULD WE DO, S.R.?

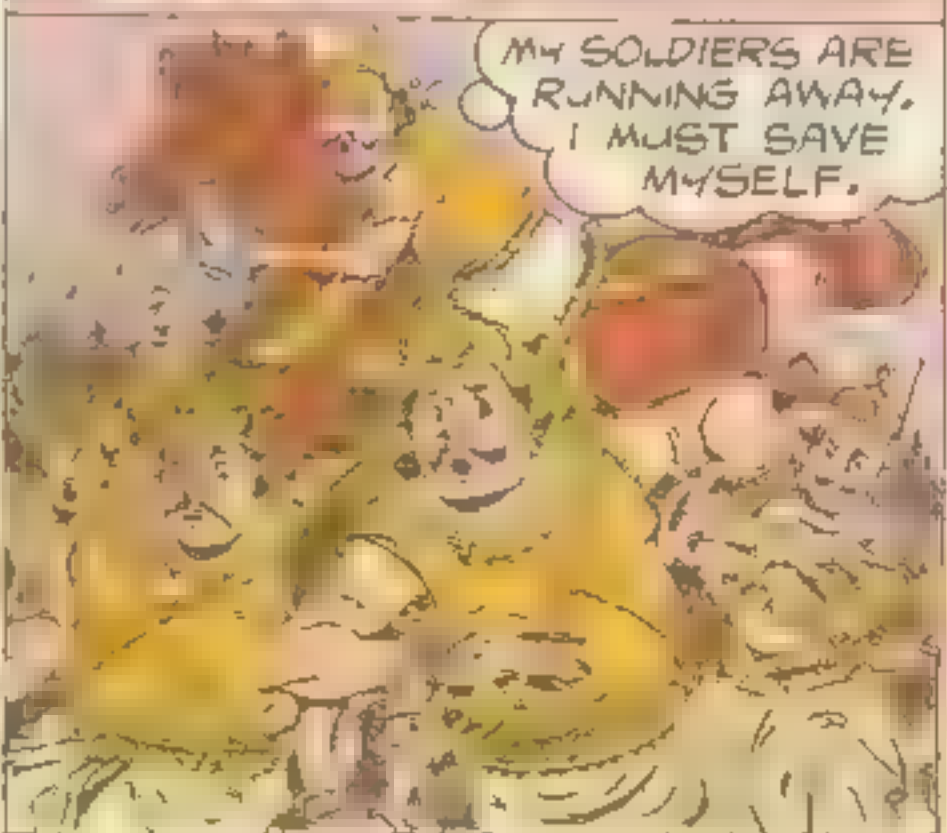


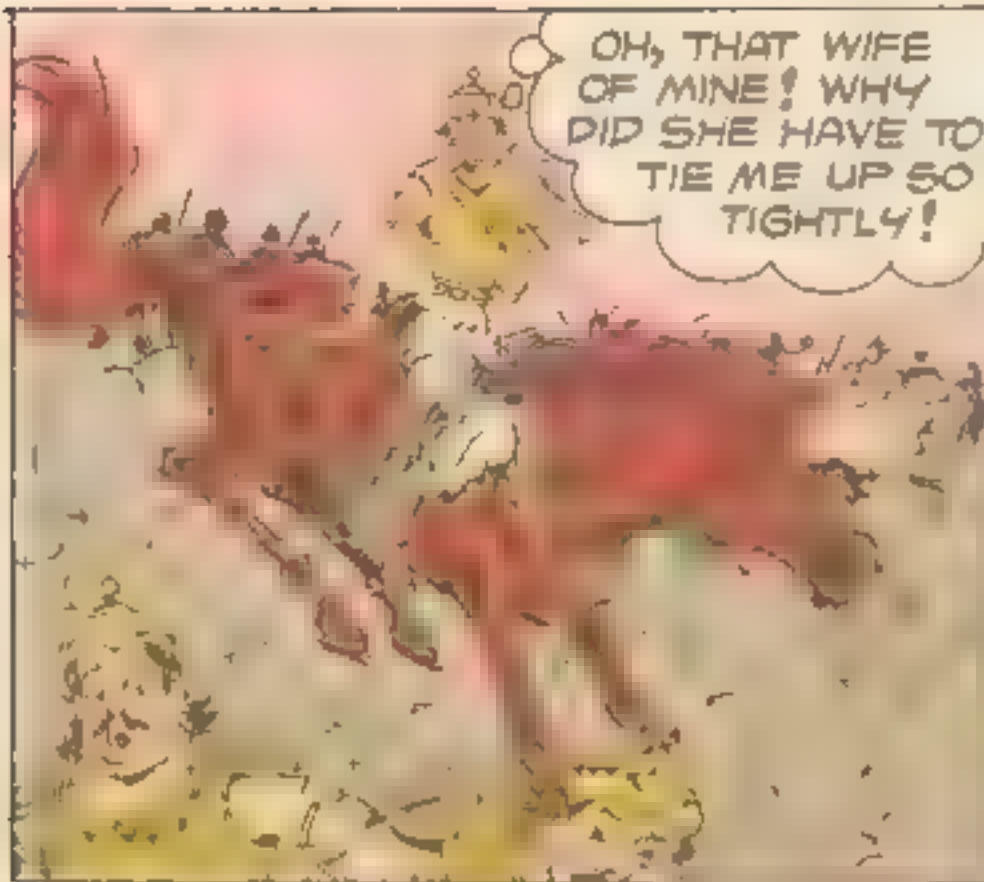
RETREAT! I MEAN ATTACK! BUT LET'S NOT GO TOO CLOSE!



THE RAJPUT ARMY WAS SOON ROUTED.

MY SOLDIERS ARE RUNNING AWAY. I MUST SAVE MYSELF.





OH, THAT WIFE
OF MINE! WHY
DID SHE HAVE TO
TIE ME UP SO
TIGHTLY!

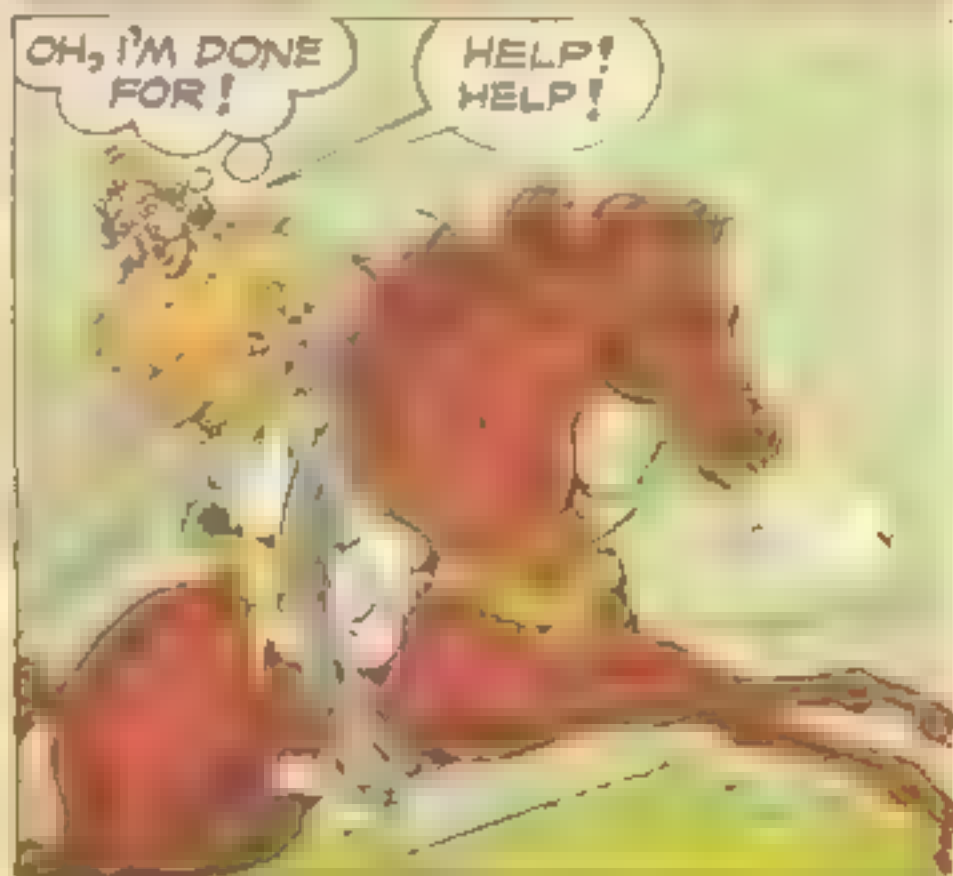


AS HAZAAR NAARYA
STRUGGLED TO FREE
HIMSELF HIS HORSE
SUDDENLY PANICKED...



...AND BEGAN TO RUN TOWARDS THE
ENEMY CAMP.

STOP! YOU
STUPID BEAST!
STOP!



OH, I'M DONE
FOR!

HELP!
HELP!

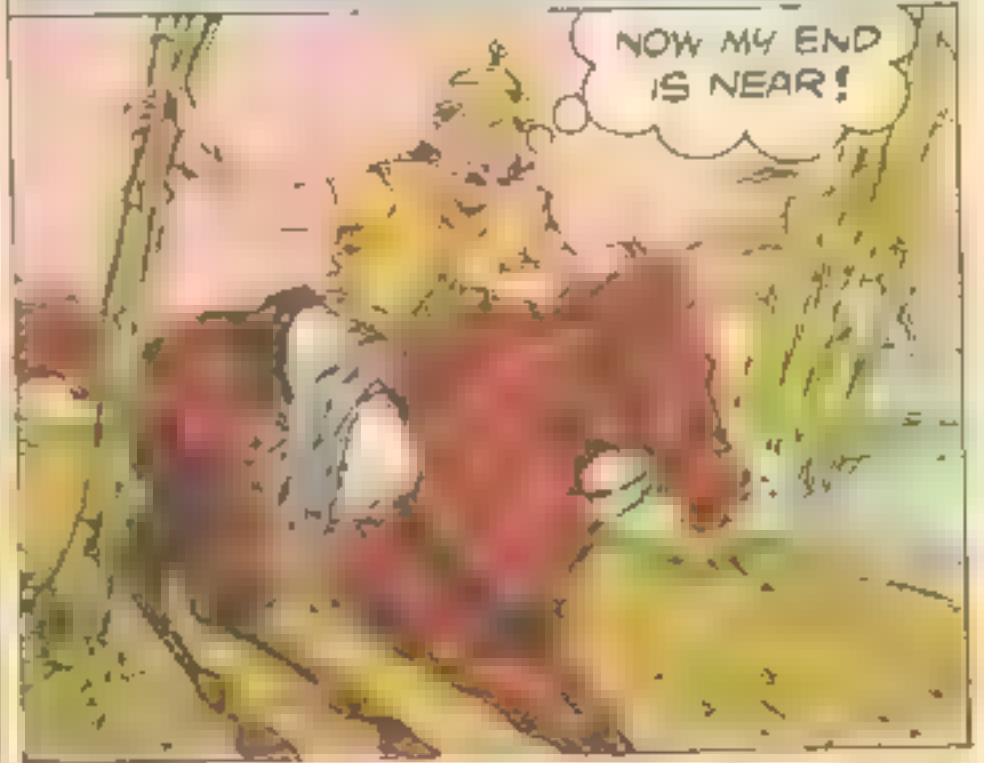


THERE WAS A CLUMP OF BAMBOO BETWEEN THE RAJPUT ARMY AND
THE ENEMY LINES AND THE HORSE RODE STRAIGHT TOWARDS IT.

HAZAAR MAARYA CLUTCHED AT THE BAMBOO TREES TO SAVE HIMSELF...



...BUT THE STALKS WERE ROTTEN AT THE ROOTS AND CAME OFF IN HIS HANDS.

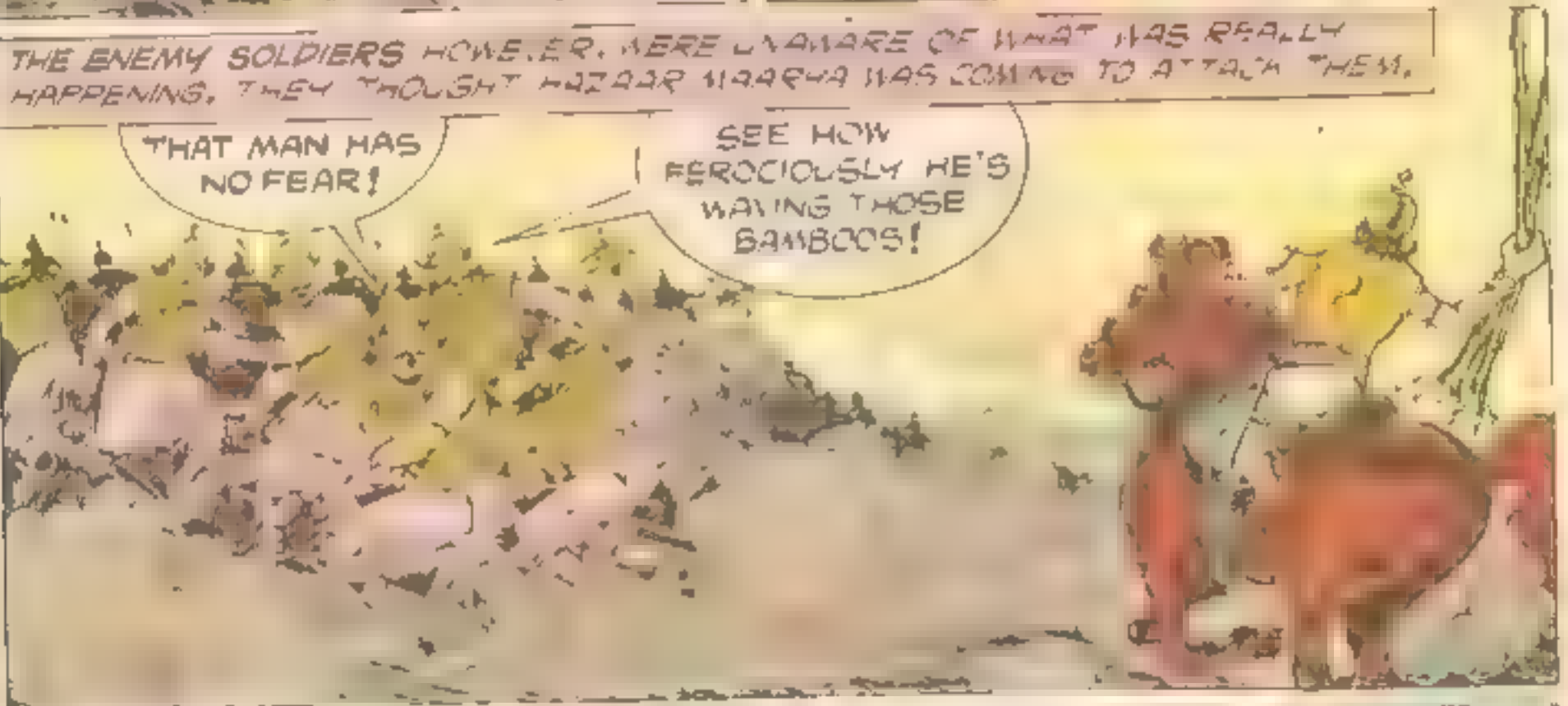


NOW MY END IS NEAR!

THE ENEMY SOLDIERS HOWEVER, WERE UNAWARE OF WHAT WAS REALLY HAPPENING. THEY THOUGHT HAZAAR MAARYA WAS COMING TO ATTACK THEM.

THAT MAN HAS NO FEAR!

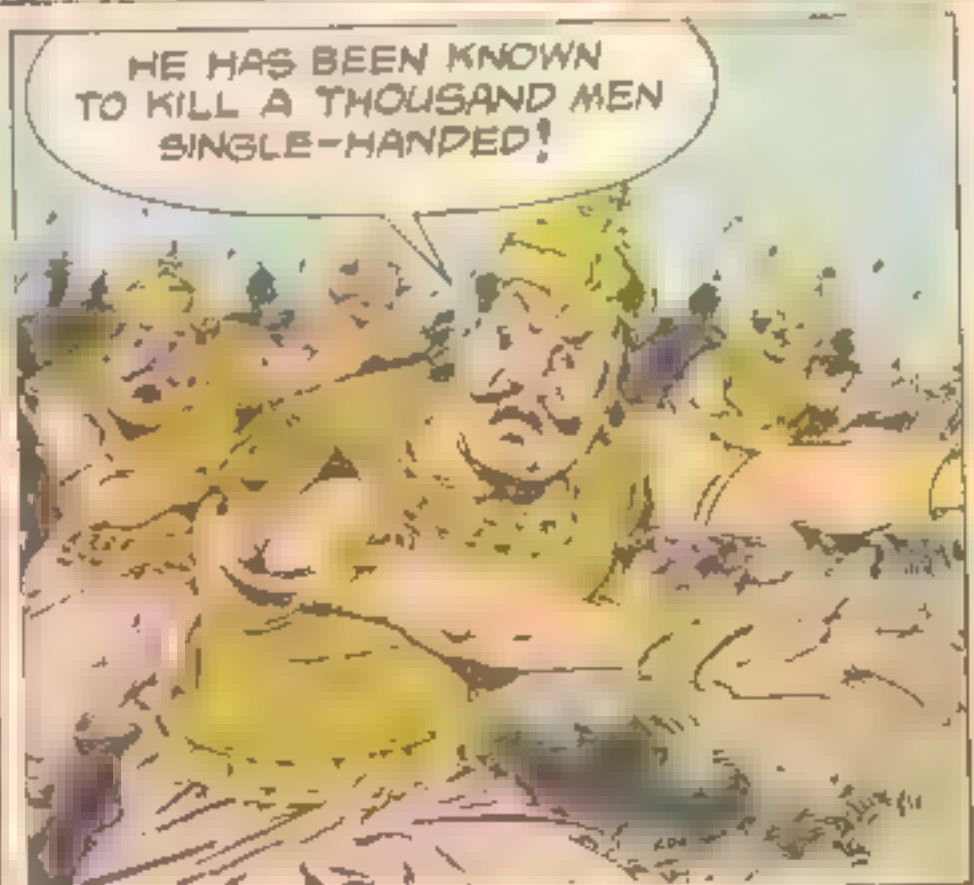
SEE HOW FEROCIOUSLY HE'S WAVING THOSE BAMBOOS!

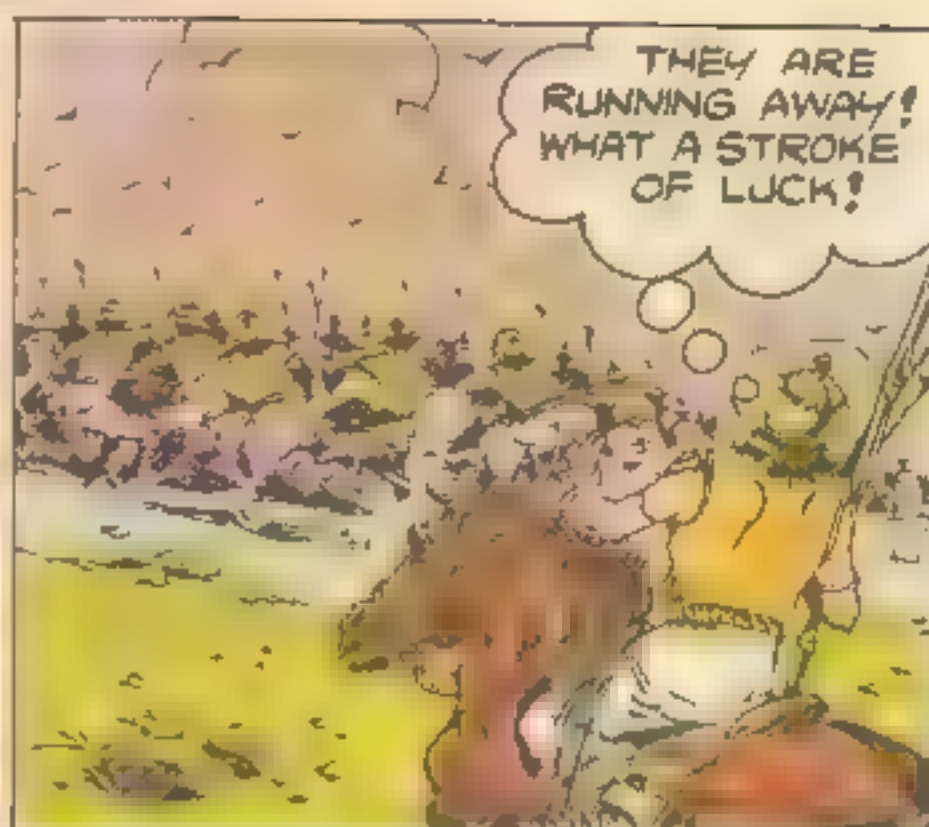
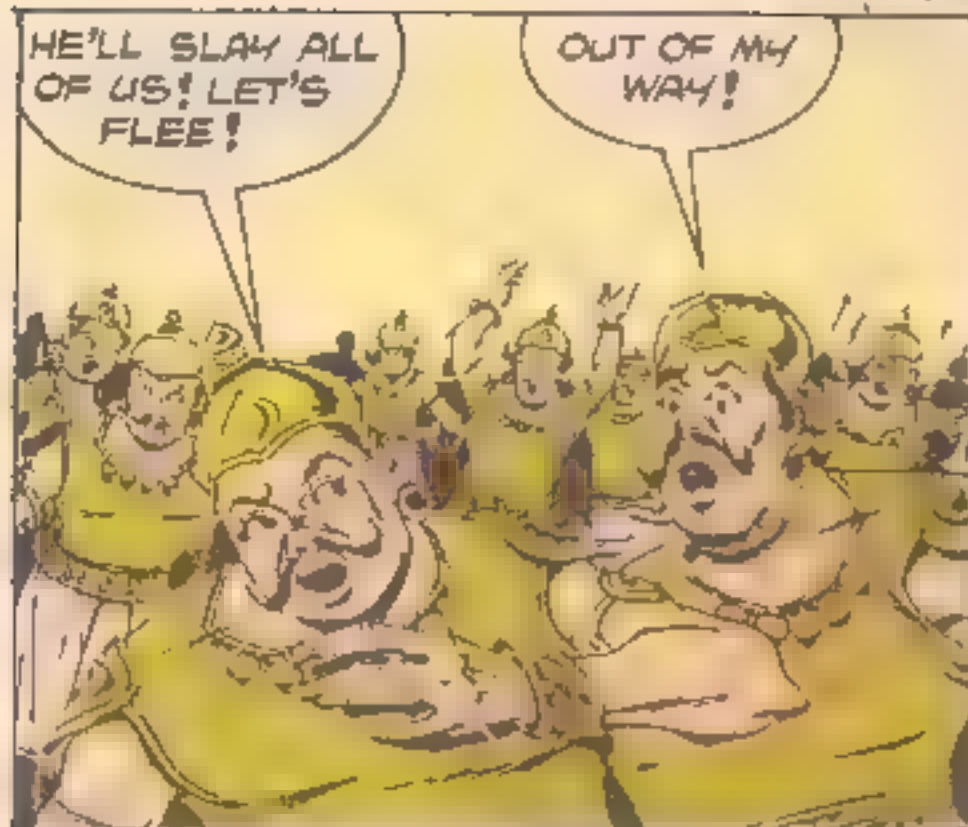


WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

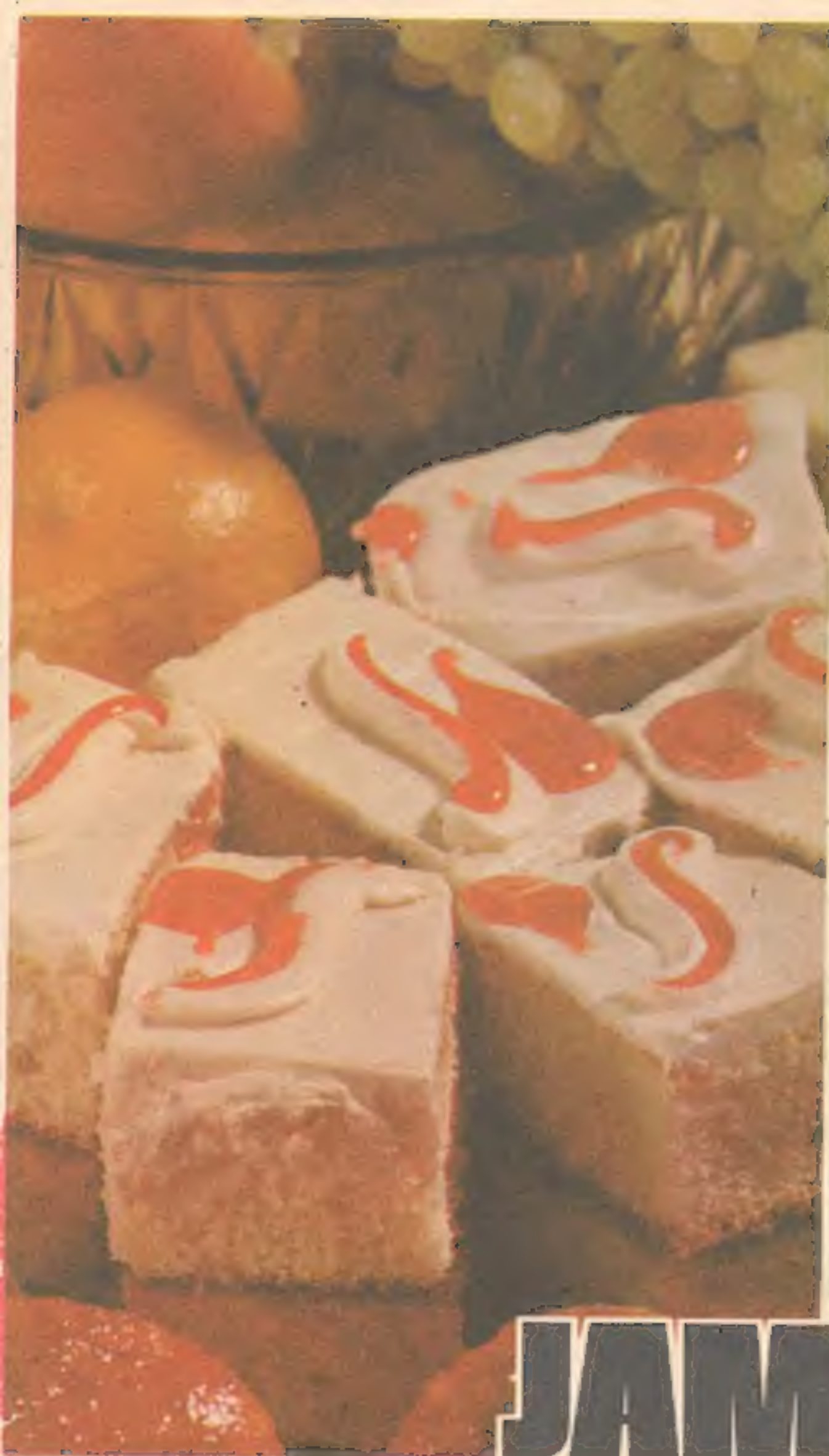
RUN!

HE HAS BEEN KNOWN TO KILL A THOUSAND MEN SINGLE-HANDED!





THUS THE LAZY BALU BECAME THE BRAVE GENERAL, HAZAAR MAARYA, FAMOUS FOR HIS RARE COURAGE, AND FROM THAT DAY HE DIDN'T KILL A SINGLE FLY!



The Kissan Range
Mixed fruit, pineapple,
strawberry, raspberry,
mango, apple, apricot,
Goldenmist orange
marmalade and
guava jelly



Kissan

**JAM
GOOD**

ARE YOU A FIND-OUTER?

Find out how Canara Bank comes to your aid when you put out an S.O.S. An exciting maze to help you—

S.O.S. MAZE



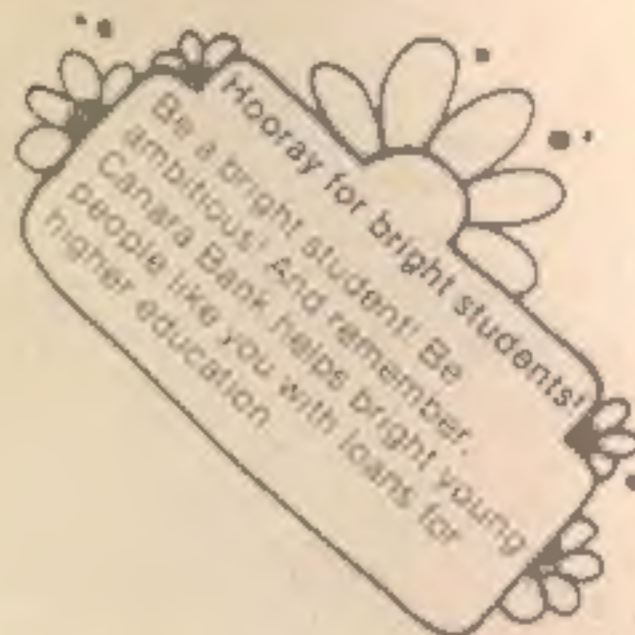
CANARA BANK

(A nationalised bank)

Riddle me riddle me ree For mummy and daddy and me

Canbank's Nature Quiz

1. Why do woodpeckers peck at trees?
2. Why do some birds eat grit?
3. When do owls hunt?
4. Name a fish-eating bird starting with the letter C.
5. Name the only swimming bird.



You are a minor. So what? Tell your mummy or daddy to open an account for you in Canara Bank. If you are 14 you can yourself open and operate the account. Come and have the thrill all for yourself. With just Rs 5/- you can start today.

VIDYANIDHI:

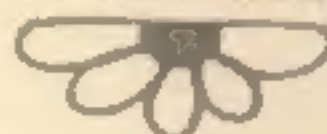
You want to be a Doctor? Engineer?? Scientist??? Then Vidyanidhi is the answer. Tell mummy and daddy to start an account today. Your higher studies will be free from worries.

BALAKSHEMA:

Smart kids don't spend all their pocket money. They save a little in Canara Bank's T.V. Box. Be smart. Ask mummy and daddy to open a Balakshema account in Canara Bank. Start dropping coins in the T.V. Box and watch your money grow. All your dreams come true.

FREE FROM CANARA BANK STICKERS

Collect them from the Canara Bank branch where you have a Balakshema or Minor Account.



Answers:

1. They eat worms and insects in the bark.
2. It helps them to digest hard foods.
3. At night.
4. Cormorant.
5. Penguin.



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